

**ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES**  
**January 15-21, 2012**  
**SOUTHEAST AND YAKUTAT KING AND TANNER CRAB; DUNGENESS CRAB,**  
**SHRIMP, MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH**

**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 77.60X. Applicability of personal use regulations in the Yakutat Area; and 5 AAC 77.65X. Applicability of personal use regulations in Southeast Alaska.** Clarify where personal use shellfish regulations apply as follows:

5 AAC 77.60X. Applicability of personal use regulations in the Yakutat Area. **The personal use regulations in Article 13 only apply to areas not specified in 5 AAC 01.666 and 5 AAC 02.108.**

5 AAC 77.65X. Applicability of personal use regulations in the Southeast Alaska Area. **The personal use regulations in Article 14 only apply to areas not specified in 5 AAC 01.716 and 5 AAC 02.108 or that are identified as non-subsistence areas in the Ketchikan Nonsubsistence Area and the Juneau Nonsubsistence Area as specified in 5 AAC 99.015.**

**ISSUE:** There is confusion amongst the public what about which regulations they can fish under. If adopted, these regulations would clearly state that personal use regulations in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat do not apply to areas with positive customary and traditional use findings. For areas with positive customary and traditional use findings subsistence regulations in Chapters 1 and 2 of the Alaska Administrative Code would apply. Personal use regulations would only apply in non-subsistence areas and areas that do not have positive customary and traditional use findings which is consistent with the intent of the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued confusion on the part of the public.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** No one. If adopted, this proposal merely clarifies where personal use regulations apply.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-282a)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 02.1XX. 5 AAC 77.6XX. 47.024. Harvest record required; annual limit.** Establish a catch reporting system for subsistence, personal use, and sport shellfish fisheries as follows:

Require the use of a catch report card that can be returned by mail or online with the year split into a couple of seasons and a penalty if you fail to return your report on time. (see Washington State regulations regarding their Dungeness catch report card) <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/crab/crc.html>.

**ISSUE:** The sustainability of the resource. Without accurate accounting of all removals of the resource we are going to follow other states on both coasts and damage our resource by underestimating what is harvested in total. This leads to judging the biomass inaccurately and setting commercial catch limits for fully utilized species at unsustainable levels from ignorance and not by intentionally overfishing the resource. Only the commercial data is being considered in the survival rate as it is the only data that is generated along with a little information provided from charter logbooks. We need all recreational harvests besides what is recorded in the charter logbooks, including personal use and subsistence harvests levels for shellfish species accounted for by the use of a catch report card like they use in Washington State for Dungeness crab.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Likely see a decline in most resources over time as we fish beyond sustainable levels.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Our fishery resources will remain sustainable.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** It will likely take a little bit of time on everyone's part.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The use of tags, with identifier numbers, harder to use on some species than others, but with the use of tags you would only be able to have in your possession, the number of tags for the possession limit of the species. Report cards are being used successfully in Washington State for accounting purposes so when with a system that is already established.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clay Bezenek (HQ-F11-176a)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 38.XXX. Closed waters.** Prohibit fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cache Island by all users as follows:

Establish Marine Conservation Zone around Cache Island. For indefinite: create a marine conservation zone around this tiny micro island where bottomfish and shellfish are prohibited from, fishing and harvesting. A no fishing boundary of 1500 feet from lands end will mark the conservation area. In conjunction with several islands being classified as marine conservation lands in the Clover Pass area where development is prohibited on land; we are taking one step further and creating a conservation area for all bottomfish and shellfish surrounding the island.

**ISSUE:** Depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks in the area. Crab shrimp and all mollusks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish stocks will never have a chance to regenerate from the pressures of overfishing and harvesting. Future generations will not have access to these limited resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Something is better than nothing at this point. By providing a small no fish area reduces stress on a limited supply of bottomfish whose populations are already overfished and stressed to the max. There has to be some effort to help conserve and repopulate the stocks that are left. Hope fully it is not too late.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bottomfish and shellfish and mollusks are first; a part of a natural food chain. The immediate benefit will be to those marine animals that feed on bottomfish, shellfish and mollusks. And to animals that feed on animals that feed off of bottomfish. Squid, octopus feed on bottomfish and are favorite foods for halibut. It is all interconnected. The greatest benefit will be the environment to help sustain the ecosystem. Ideally this no fish zone will regenerate and spill over stocks to regenerate surrounding areas.

Second; the next benefit will be to man. Whoever this resource user is; resident or nonresident, subsistence fishermen or guided fishermen, all users of a limited resource will benefit from natural fish, shellfish, mollusks stocks being managed and conserved for regeneration not only for this moment in time but for future generations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Users of a depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks are already suffering from little if any proper management of these resources. No additional harm will increase what users are already experiencing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Expand marine conservation zones around Naha Bay to Traitors Cove and all off shores areas in between.

Establish marine conservation zones for 10 year periods. Reopen zones for limited time periods to ensure regeneration of fish stocks.

Establish marine conservation zones for limited users. Allow fishing for only residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation

(HQ-F11-159)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 38.XXX. Closed waters.** Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish in a portion of Behm Canal as follows:

Establish Marine Conservation Zone for limited users for off shore waters, bays, inlets and coves from Indian Point to Behm Canal area to Bushy Point and all coves and inlets in between. For indefinite: create a marine conservation zone around this point and surrounding islands and land points where bottomfish and shellfish stocks are open for resident fishing and harvest only. Nonresidents are prohibited from fishing and harvesting within this limited conservation zone. In conjunction with several islands being classified as Marine Conservation Islands in the Clover Pass area where development is prohibited on land; we are taking it one step further and creating a limited conservation area for all bottomfish and shellfish surrounding the bay and island.

**ISSUE:** Depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks in the area. Crab, shrimp and all mollusks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish stocks will never have a chance to regenerate from the pressures of overfishing and harvesting. Future generations will not have access to these limited resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Something is better than nothing at this point. By providing a small no fish area for nonresidents reduces stress on a limited supply of bottomfish whose populations are already overfished and stressed to the max. There has to be some effort to help conserve and repopulate the stocks that are left.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bottomfish and shellfish and mollusks are first; a part of a natural food chain. The immediate benefit will be to those marine animals that feed on bottomfish, shellfish and mollusks. And to animals that feed on animals that feed off of bottomfish. Squid and octopus feed on bottomfish and are favorite foods for halibut. It is all inter-connected. The greatest benefit will be the environment to help sustain the eco system. Ideally this no fish zone will regenerate and spill over stocks to regenerate surrounding areas.

Second; the next benefit will be to man. Whoever this resource user is; resident or nonresident' subsistence fishermen or guided fishermen; all users of a limited resource will benefit from natural fish, shellfish, mollusks, stocks being managed and conserved for regeneration only for this moment in time but for future generations

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Users of a depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks are already suffering from little if any proper management of these resources. No additional harm will increase what users are already experiencing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Establish marine conservation zones open for resident fishing only for a 10 year period. Reopen zones for all fishing on a limited time period to ensure regeneration of fish stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation

(HQ-F11-162)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 38.XXX. Closed waters.** Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Naha Bay as follows:

Establish Marine Conservation Zone for limited users from Naha Bay to Donnelly Point from Donnelly Point to Cache Island from Cache Island to Indian Point all places in between.

For indefinite: create a limited marine conservation zone around this bay and surrounding islands and land points where bottomfish and shellfish stocks are open for resident fishing and harvest only. Non residents are prohibited from fishing and harvesting within this limited conservation zone. In conjunction with several islands being classified as Marine conservation islands in the Clover Pass area where development is prohibited on land; we are taking in one step further and creating a limited conservation area for all bottomfish and shellfish surrounding the bay and islands.

**ISSUE:** Depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks in the area. Crab, shrimp and all mollusks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish stocks will never have a chance to regenerate from the pressures of overfishing and harvesting. Future generations will not have access to these limited resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Something is better than nothing at this point. By providing a small no fish area for nonresidents reduces stress on a limited supply of bottomfish whose populations are already overfished and stressed to the max. There has to be some effort to help conserve and repopulate the stocks that are left.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bottomfish and shellfish and mollusks are first; a part of a natural food chain. The immediate benefit will be to those marine animals that feed on bottomfish, shellfish and mollusks. And to animals that feed on animals that feed off of bottomfish. Squid and octopus feed on bottomfish and are favorite foods for halibut. It is all inter-connected. The greatest benefit will be the environment to help sustain the eco system. Ideally this no fish zone will regenerate and spill over stocks to regenerate surrounding areas.

Second; the next benefit will be to man. Whoever this resource user is; resident or nonresident' subsistence fishermen or guided fishermen; all users of a limited resource will benefit from natural fish, shellfish, mollusks, stocks being managed and conserved for regeneration only for this moment in time but for future generations

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Users of a depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks are already suffering from little if any proper management of these resources. No additional harm will increase what users are already experiencing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Establish marine conservation zones open for resident fishing only for a 10 year period. Reopen zones for all fishing on a limited time period to ensure regeneration of fish stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation

(HQ-F11-160)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This proposal is also scheduled for consideration during the Southeast and Yakutat Finfish meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 28.150. Closed waters in Eastern Gulf of Alaska Area; 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A; 5 AAC 38.XXX. Closed waters.** Prohibit nonresidents from fishing for bottomfish and shellfish near Cedar Island as follows:

Establish Marine Conservation Zone for limited users around Cedar Island. For indefinite: create a marine conservation zone around this tiny micro island where bottomfish and shellfish stocks are open for resident fishing only. Nonresidents are prohibited from fishing and harvesting within a no fishing boundary of 1500 feet from lands end will mark the conservation area. In conjunction with several islands being classified as Marine Conservation Islands in the Clover Pass area where development is prohibited on land; we are taking it one step further and creating a limited conservation area for all bottomfish and shellfish surrounding the island.

**ISSUE:** Depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks in the area. Crab, shrimp and all mollusks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Fish stocks will never have a chance to regenerate from the pressures of overfishing and harvesting. Future generations will not have access to these limited resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Something is better than nothing at this point. By providing a small no fish area for nonresidents reduces stress on a limited supply of bottomfish whose populations are already overfished and stressed to the max. There has to be some effort to help conserve and repopulate the stocks that are left.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bottomfish and shellfish and mollusks are first; a part of a natural food chain. The immediate benefit will be to those marine animals that feed on bottomfish, shellfish and mollusks. And to animals that feed on animals that feed off of bottomfish. Squid and octopus feed on bottomfish and are favorite foods for halibut. It is all inter-connected. The greatest benefit will be the environment to help sustain the eco system. Ideally this no fish zone will regenerate and spill over stocks to regenerate surrounding areas.

Second; the next benefit will be to man. Whoever this resource user is; resident or nonresident' subsistence fishermen or guided fishermen; all users of a limited resource will benefit from natural fish, shellfish, mollusks, stocks being managed and conserved for regeneration only for this moment in time but for future generations

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Users of a depleted bottomfish and shellfish stocks are already suffering from little if any proper management of these resources. No additional harm will increase what users are already experiencing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Establish marine conservation zones open for resident fishing only for a 10 year period. Reopen zones for all fishing on a limited time period to ensure regeneration of fish stocks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Naha Conservation

(HQ-F11-161)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 77.010. Methods, means and general restrictions; 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag, possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.** Reduce the shrimp pot limit for sport shrimp fishery as follows:

5 pots per person, with a maximum of 10 pots per vessel.

**ISSUE:** The number of sport shrimp pots that nonresidents can fish is too big. The current regulation allows 10 pots per person and 20 per vessel. The bag limit that was allowed with this pot number was 10 pounds or 10 quarts daily. Since the bag limit has been lowered to 3 pounds or 3 quarts daily, the number of pots that nonresidents are allowed to fish should be lowered as well. Way too many shrimp are being caught and some unneeded mortality is occurring from inexperienced shrimp handlers. Many shrimp on deck also provide temptation to go over the bag limit.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Shrimp will be killed unnecessarily and nonresidents will continue to exceed the bag limit.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, there will be more available shrimp for both residents and nonresidents. Since more shrimp will survive in certain areas, bigger shrimp will be caught.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All fishers of Alaska because there will be more shrimp and more bigger ones available for harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents who over harvest Alaska's seafood.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Wrangell Advisory Committee (HQ-F11-149)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** Close sport fishing for Dungeness crab in areas closed to commercial fishing as follows:

Areas listed in 5AAC 32.150 Closed waters in Registration Area A will also be closed to sport harvest of Dungeness crab.

**ISSUE:** Currently in areas closed to commercial Dungeness fishing for allocation reasons it remains open to sport fishing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Areas closed to commercial fishing so local needs can be met will continue to have sport fishing pressure. Generally areas have been closed to commercial fishing so local needs can be met but some of these areas have become high sport use areas and the commercial closure has done what it was designed to do.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resident personal use fishermen and the resource as it will be harvested only by the people who the closure was implemented to help. All residents will be able to use these areas if this proposal is adopted because they can harvest under personal use regulations and this would only affect sport regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents as they will lose some areas to sport fish for Dungeness crab.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I considered listing these closed areas separately but they change with each Board of Fish cycle and this way will ensure that the list of closed areas to sportfishing remains current.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brennon Eagle (HQ-F11-211)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 47.090. George Inlet superexclusive guided sport ecotourism Dungeness crab fishery.** Amend registration requirements for the George Inlet Superexclusive Guided Sport Ecotourism Dungeness Crab Fishery as follows:

The registration period taking place December 1 - January 2 would require that a business register itself and the number of vessels it intends to use in the exclusive fishery. There would no longer be a window set aside for a guide registration, although any guide registering for the fishery would have to be assigned to one of the companies that had registered itself and vessel(s) during the registration period. The guides would still be required to meet all of the current requirements (e.g. sub paragraph b, First Aid & CPR, hold a valid State of Alaska fishing license) but would not be forced to register 6 months prior to the ecotourism season.

**ISSUE:** Sub paragraph (c) outlines the registration period for a sport fishing operator, sport fishing guide, or vessel owner to participate in the super exclusive fishery. The registration period begins December 1 and goes through January 2 of the year the fishing will take place. This registration period is months before the tourist season, which leaves open the possibility that a guide that was expected to participate in the fishery ultimately does not or cannot. Potential reasons may include health problems, separation of employment from the company, or the failure to meet other requirements for licensing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If a company registers itself, its vessel, and also has two captains register based on offers of employment, the company could potentially face serious economic consequences as a result of things outside its control. For instance, if one of the captains were to come down with a serious illness that prevented him from working, the company would have no ability to hire an alternate guide because the registration period would have already been closed. Because of the strict requirements placed on these guides (i.e. they cannot participate in any other guided sport fishery) no guide would register for this fishery without knowing they were going to be offered a job. This leaves no reserve pool to draw from should a guide no longer be available to work for the registered company.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would ensure that those interested in participating in this ecotour in George Inlet would have the opportunity to do so, even if a replacement guide was needed part way through the season. Under current regulations, if a company were to lose a guide mid-season, many people would lose the opportunity to participate in this tour.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Any company that had registered for the super exclusive fishery and then found themselves in need of a guide after the December 1 to January 2 registration period had ended.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Since only one company, Experience Alaska Tours (EAT), has traditionally registered for this fishery, there does not appear to be any other business or businesses that would be harmed should EAT be allowed to register guides outside the current registration period.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The only other solution would be for EAT to offer employment to reserve guides. This was rejected because either

A) A guided would not waive their rights to another fishery without knowing they were going to get compensated; and

B) Compensating reserve guides would significantly increase costs without generating any additional revenue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Experience Alaska Tours

(HQ-F11-015)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 34.111. Section 11-A Red and Blue King Crab Management and Allocation Plan.** Allocate all harvest of king crab in Section 11-A (Juneau area) to the personal use fishery as follows:

Amend 5AAC 34.111(a) by deleting the last sentence...[THE BOARD ALSO FINDS THAT THE COMMERCIAL USE OF RED AND BLUE CRAB IN SECTION 11-a IS HISTORIC, ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT, AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED]

Amend part (b) to read: The board authorizes the department to conduct the personal use [AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES] according to the following...

Amend (b)(1) to read: (summer season) **90** [80] percent of the red king crab...

Amend by deleting sections (3) and (4)

**ISSUE:** We request the board reserve all king crab in the Section 11-A for the personal use fishery. The crab resource is not adequate to allow both commercial and personal use fishery for red king crab in this area. Both the commercial and personal use seasons have been closed due to depletion of the king crab stocks.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Personal Use and Commercial uses of king Crab stocks in 11-A will continue to result in boom or bust fisheries for both users. As a result the personal use fishermen that are limited to small vessels will be unable to participate in any king crab fishery.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Personal use crabbers will be able to continue crabbing in Section 11-A once the stock rebuilds and the season is opened. The boom or bust approach to king salmon management in the area will cease which should result in continued and consistent annual openings for the personal use fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial fishermen will have to focus on other areas outside of Section 11-A.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. (HQ-F11-026)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery; 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; 5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery; 5 AAC 47.035. Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish; 5 AAC 77.612. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.662; Personal use Dungeness crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.664;. Personal use king crab fishery; and 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.** Establish ring net limits for subsistence, sport, and personal use Dungeness and tanner crab fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 02.115. Subsistence Dungeness crab fishery.**

...

**(7) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest Dungeness crab.**

**5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery.**

...

**(7) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest king crab.**

**5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery.**

...

**(4) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest Tanner crab.**

**5 AAC 47.035 Methods, means, and general provisions – Shellfish.**

...

(c) no more than four pots and 10 ring nets, other than shrimp pots, per person with a maximum of 10 pots **and 20 ring nets**, other than shrimp pots, per vessel may be used in the taking of shellfish [OTHER THAN SHRIMP] at any time, except that no more than four pots **and 10 ring nets** per vessel may be used to take Tanner crab. No more than 10 additional shrimp pots per person with a maximum of 20 additional shrimp pots per vessel may be used in the taking of shrimp at any time.

**5 AAC 77.612. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.**

...

**(6) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest Dungeness crab.**

**5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery.**

...

**(5) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest king crab.**

**5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.**

...

**(4) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest Tanner crab.**

**5 AAC 77.662. Personal use Dungeness crab fishery.**

...

**(6) no more than 10 ring nets per person with a maximum of 20 ring nets per vessel may be used to harvest Dungeness crab, except in waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A where reduced pot and ring net limits will be consistent with pot and ring net limits imposed for king crab under 5 AAC 77.664.**

**5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.**

...

(c) In the waters described in 5 AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, in the personal use taking of king crab,

(1) red and blue king crab may only be taken under the authority of a permit issued under 5 AAC 77.015;

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is three male king crab per person;

(3) the commissioner may close and immediately reopen, by emergency order, a personal use red and blue king crab season during which one or more of the following conditions applies:

(A) a reduced bag and possession limit;

(B) a seasonal limit for king crab;

(C) a reduced pot **and ring net** limit.

...

(f) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 77.010(i) no more than four pots **and 10 ring nets** per vessel may be used to take king crab. A pot used to take king crab under this section must have at least two escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot that are not less than six and one-quarter inches inside diameter.

**5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.**

(a) **Except as provided in (b) of this section,** in the personal use taking of Tanner crab,

(1) Tanner crab may be taken only from July 1 through June 15;

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is 30 male Tanner crab;

(3) notwithstanding 5 AAC 77.010(i), no more than four pots **and 10 ring nets** per vessel may be used to take Tanner crab; a pot used to take Tanner crab under this section must have at least two circular escape rings on opposing vertical or sloping sides of the pot that each are not less than four and three-quarter inches inside diameter;

**(b) In the waters described in 5AAC 33.200 as Section 11-A, in the personal use taking of Tanner crab, reduced pot and ring net limits will be consistent with pot and ring net limits imposed in Section 11-A for king crab under 5AAC 77.664.**

**ISSUE:** The number of ring nets that may currently be used by an individual participating in the Southeast Alaska or Yakutat area subsistence or personal use crab fisheries or sport shellfish fisheries is not limited. This proposal establishes consistent limits for the number of ring nets a person is allowed and a maximum number of ring nets allowed per vessel in the subsistence and personal use crab fisheries, and the sport shellfish fisheries.

Additionally, personal use regulations under 5 AAC 77.664 specific to red king crab in the Southeast Alaska Area allow fishery managers to regulate possession limits for red king crab throughout the region during times of low or high stock abundance. These regulations also allow managers to regulate pot and ring net limits for the personal use red king crab fishery in the waters of Section 11-A. This proposal establishes ring limits for the subsistence and personal use king crab fishery in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat to provide consistency in the methods by which red king crab can be harvested. It will allow managers to more effectively manage personal use harvest of red king crab in the waters of Section 11-A in Southeast Alaska. In Section 11-A, managers target an allocated personal use harvest for red king crab during a summer and winter season; establishing consistent gear restrictions across crab species will maintain the required fishing effort needed to meet intentions outlined under 5 AAC 77.664.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Ring net limits will continue to be absent from subsistence, personal use, and sport fisheries. Inconsistencies in the department's ability to manage gear use in the waters of Section 11-A will continue.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The public and enforcement will benefit by having clear and consistent subsistence, personal use, and sport fishery regulations that describe the allowable number of ring nets for harvest of shellfish in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Areas. department staff will be able to more effectively manage red king crab personal use fisheries throughout Southeast Alaska and within the waters of Section 11-A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishermen who have ring nets in excess of the limits allowed by this proposal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-274)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery; and 5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.** Establish king and tanner crab size limits in the personal use and subsistence fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery.** In the personal use taking of king crab

...

**(6) only male red and golden king crab seven inches or larger, and male blue king crab six and one-half inches or larger, in width of shell may be taken or possessed.**

**5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery.** In the subsistence taking of Tanner crab

...

**(5) only male Tanner crab 5.5 inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed;**

**(6) male Tanner crab less than the minimum legal size and female Tanner crab that have been taken must be immediately returned unharmed to the sea.**

**5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.** In the personal use taking of Tanner crab

...

**(5) only male Tanner crab 5.5 inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed;**

**(6) male Tanner crab less than the minimum legal size and female Tanner crab that have been taken must be immediately returned unharmed to the sea.**

**ISSUE:** Currently there are inconsistent and absent subsistence and personal use regulations that define size limits for king crab and Tanner crab in the Yakutat Area. For king crab, size limits exist in subsistence regulations under 5 AAC 02.120(3)(B), but do not exist under personal use regulations. No subsistence or personal use regulations currently define size limits for Tanner crab in the Yakutat area.

Size limits are an important management tool used to allow harvest on the segment of a crab population that has reached sexual maturity and has been allowed time to reproduce and contribute recruitment opportunity to the population. These regulations will provide that opportunity under the subsistence and personal use regulations, and will make size limits consistent for king and Tanner crab within the Yakutat Area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Inconsistencies will continue between subsistence and personal use regulations, and the public may harvest king and Tanner crab that are undersized, thereby negatively impacting recruitment success to local crab stocks.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The public, department staff and enforcement officers will benefit by having clearly stated and consistent size limits for king and Tanner crab stated in regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F11-275)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery. 5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery; 5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery; 5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery; and 5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery.** Amend live holding regulations for personal use and subsistence king and Tanner crab fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 77.664. Personal use king crab fishery.**

...

(e) [A PERSON MAY NOT UTILIZE A] live holding [FACILITY] **facilities utilized** to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits **by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**5 AAC 77.666. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.**

...

(6) [A PERSON MAY NOT UTILIZE A] live holding [FACILITY] **facilities utilized** to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits **by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**5 AAC 77.614. Personal use king crab fishery.**

...

**(7) live holding facilities utilized to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**5 AAC 77.616. Personal use Tanner crab fishery.**

...

**(7) live holding facilities utilized to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**5 AAC 02.120. Subsistence king crab fishery.**

...

**(8) live holding facilities utilized to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**5 AAC 02.125. Subsistence Tanner crab fishery.**

...

**(7) live holding facilities utilized to accumulate or pool multiple bag limits by an individual or individuals are prohibited.**

**ISSUE:** This proposal would provide consistent language on the use of live holding facilities for the Dungeness crab, Tanner crab, and king crab personal use fisheries in the Southeast Alaska and Yakutat Areas, and for the Dungeness crab, Tanner crab, and king crab subsistence fisheries in Southeastern Alaska-Yakutat Area. These changes would mirror the language already found in 5 AAC 77.662(4), 5 AAC 77.612(4), and 5 AAC 02.115(5). This language is preferable since use of a live holding device by more than one individual is clarified and would prohibit more than one individual from storing more than that individual's bag and possession limit in a live holding device.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The regulatory language regarding use of a live holding device in the Tanner crab and king crab personal use and subsistence fisheries by more than one individual will continue to be vague.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Tanner crab and king crab personal use and subsistence fishermen who currently limit themselves to the bag and possession limits in regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Tanner crab and king crab personal use and subsistence fishermen who might wish to subvert the bag and possession limits in regulation.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-276)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.**

Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds as follows:

If the department estimates there is less than 200,000 lbs of red king crab available to harvest. The department shall equally split that harvest estimated amongst the registered permit holders.

**ISSUE:** The closure of the red king crab fishery due to a minimum threshold that was arbitrarily implemented for marketing concerns.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The commercial fleet will continue to not harvest surplus king crab when available.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The department will be able to closely monitor the fishery and close areas as needed to conserve the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fishermen and the costal community that depend upon a commercial harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Have a competitive fishery for less than 200,000 lbs. The department cannot control a fishery like this, without potentially exceeding the GHL.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Kittams (HQ-F11-041)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 34.113. Southeast Alaska Red King Crab Management Plan.**

Revise the Southeast Red King Crab Management Plan to allow equal quota harvest for commercial permit holders when the threshold of available biomass is below 200,000 pounds as follows:

If under 200,000 pounds, the fishery will be an equal split among the registered permit holders. This will provide for use of older red king crab before they leave the fishery (die off).

**ISSUE:** The 200,000 pound threshold, required to open the fishery for commercial fishing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Not harvesting under the 200,000 pound threshold is lost opportunity for the commercial fleet. As this is a harvestable surplus.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** None.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The commercial fishermen and the communities who depend on commercial fisheries revenue.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ladd Norheim (HQ-F11-051)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.** Prohibit the use of square pots for golden king crab in registration Area A as follows:

The use of square pots is prohibited for the golden king crab harvest in registration Area A.

**ISSUE:** The bycatch of halibut from the use of square pots, primarily in the Southeast Alaska golden king crab fishery. Golden king crab is found in deep waters and consequently the bycatch of the limited halibut stock is high.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The continuing unnecessary waste and localized depletion of already limited halibut stocks.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Over the past several years we have experienced a massive decline in the Area 2C halibut quota. I believe we should do everything possible to eliminate loss of halibut stock to unnecessary bycatch.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All areas of halibut fishing; commercial, subsistence, charter and sport fisheries.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The few fishermen still using square pots. Many fishermen have already switched to using cone pots for the ease of transporting them.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The required placement of excluder bars in the square opt tunnels. But that would not prevent smaller halibut from entering pots.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steven M. Thynes (HQ-F11-029)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 34.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A; 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.** Reduce the pot limit in the golden king and Tanner crab fisheries in Area A as follows:

Changing the pot limit from 100 pots per boat to 50 pots per boat for golden king crab, and changing pot limit from 80 to 50 pots per boat for the tanner crab fishery. Set tier levels for different amount of participants in the fishery. Add appropriate number of days to the tanner crab fishery to account for less effort with the reduction of pots.

**ISSUE:** Slow down the harvest rate of golden king crab and elevate over crowding of gear on fishing grounds.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The quota will continue to be harvested faster than market can utilize the product. Fishermen will receive less than best value for their product. Fishing grounds will continue to be over saturated with fishing gear. This results in higher gear loss from gear conflicts and reduced efficiency of pots fished.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Quality of resource will be increased in the sense that more of product can be sold over time to high paying fresh live markets. In the more recent years demand and availability of these live markets has expanded, this in turn has helped drive price for product to record highs. It has also made available to the consumer a high quality product because the product is sold and held live as opposed to been frozen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All participants will benefit in the sense of higher price for their product. They will also benefit by having less gear conflicts (reduced gear loss) and fishing safety should improve with fishermen having to carry less gear.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who may have other time commitments from a longer season, and boats that are the largest of the fishing fleet who can haul more gear safer than the smaller vessels in fishing fleet.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Stan Savland (HQ-F11-175)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A.** Clarify when six and one-half inch male golden king crab may be retained as follows:

**5 AAC 34.120. Size limits for Registration Area A.**

...

(4) male golden king crab six and one-half inches or greater in width of shell may be taken or possessed in the Lower Chatham Strait and Southern Areas **only** during **specified** periods opened by emergency order.

**ISSUE:** Currently, there is confusion regarding when male golden king crab of a six and one-half inch may be retained from the Lower Chatham Strait and southern areas. This language is intended to more clearly describe the intent of this regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Confusion by department staff, enforcement, and the public will continue.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The public, department staff, and enforcement would benefit by having a regulation that is easier to understand.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Permit holders who may have been confused by the regulation and were targeting undersized crab.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-278)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A; 5AAC 35.110. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A.** Redefine the start date for Tanner and golden king crab fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 34.110 Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.**

...

(b) Male golden king crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon **February 15** [ON THE DATE WITH THE SMALLEST JUNEAU TIDAL RANGE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 10 AND FEBRUARY 17, AS ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER,] until the season is closed by emergency order.

**5 AAC 35.110 Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A.** Male Tanner crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon **February 15** [ON THE DATE WITH THE SMALLEST JUNEAU TIDAL RANGE BETWEEN FEBRUARY 10 AND FEBRUARY 17, AS ANNOUNCED] **until the season is closed** by emergency order [, THROUGH MAY 1].

**ISSUE:** Tanner and golden king crab fisheries begin on the same day subject to the smallest Juneau tidal range occurring between February 10 and 17. There is disagreement within the fleet at what point within the tidal range this regulation was intended; as a result, this confusion causes much angst for managers prior to the season. In the past, the department deferred to the King and Tanner Task Force to set the start date, but in recent years this has also been met with numerous and complex phone calls from fishermen who are unsatisfied with the start date. This proposal would impose a set start date of February 15, regardless of the tide, for both the Tanner and golden king crab fisheries.

This proposal also clarifies the closing date for the Tanner crab fishery, a housekeeping change that was not amended when the new Tanner crab harvest strategy was adopted during a 2009 Board of Fisheries. With adoption of a new Tanner crab harvest strategy in 5 AAC 35.113, the closing dates for core and noncore areas are subject to the total number of pots registered at the start of the fishery; closures are set by emergency order.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Managers will set the start date of the Tanner and golden king crab fisheries based upon the corresponding day between February 10 and 17 that has the smallest tidal range according to the tidal chart for Juneau.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishermen and department staff will benefit by having start dates for Tanner and golden king crab fisheries that are clearly defined in regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some commercial fishermen who feel their catch performance improves when the fishery begins during smaller tides.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Defer start date to the King and Tanner Task Force.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F11-279)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 34.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A; and 5AAC 35.110. Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A.** Add additional language that defines how weather delays may impact Tanner and king crab fishing seasons:

**5 AAC 34.110 Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.**

...

**(f) Season openings may be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the major fishing areas in the Southeast Region contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots and higher) on the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the day preceding the start date and the following day, in which case the season opening in all sections of Registration Area A eligible for a season opening will be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued 24 hours prior to the start of the fishery; if after the initial delay gale warnings continue regionwide, the season opening in all eligible sections may be delayed an additional 24 hours; season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis; for the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas considered within the Southeast Region are as follows:**

- (1) Southern Lynn Canal;**
- (2) Northern Chatham Strait;**
- (3) Stephens Passage;**
- (4) Frederick Sound.**

**5 AAC 35.110 Fishing Seasons for Registration Area A.**

**(a)** Male Tanner crab may be taken only from 12:00 noon on the date with the smallest Juneau tidal range between February 10 and February 17, as announced by emergency order, through May 1.

**(b) Season openings may be delayed if the National Weather Service forecast for the major fishing areas in the Southeast Region contains gale force wind warnings (35 knots and higher) on the 4:00 a.m. forecast for the day preceding the start date and the following day, in which case the season opening in all sections of Registration Area A eligible for a season opening will be delayed 24 hours and announcement of this delay will be issued 24 hours prior to the start of the fishery; if after the initial delay gale warnings continue regionwide, the season opening in all eligible sections may be delayed an additional 24 hours; season opening delays may continue on a rolling 24-hour basis; for the purposes of this paragraph, the corresponding National Weather Service forecast areas considered within the Southeast Region are as follows:**

- (1) Southern Lynn Canal;**
- (2) Northern Chatham Strait;**
- (3) Stephens Passage;**
- (4) Frederick Sound.**

**ISSUE:** Extreme regionwide weather can create unsafe and unproductive harvest opportunities in Tanner and king crab fisheries and has resulted in delays to the openings of these fisheries. This proposal clarifies how the department will use weather information in delaying season openings. The department is open to working with the public and the Board of Fisheries on the specific parameters of this proposal and offers this draft language for consideration.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Managers will consult with the National Weather Service prior to fishery openings and may delay fisheries without the benefit of criteria found in regulation. Fishermen will continue to be unclear about conditions in which a delay to the start of the Tanner and king crab fisheries may take place.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Harvesting shellfish under extreme weather conditions can negatively impact the quality of the resource harvested; by delaying the fishery to periods of less extreme weather harvest quality will be improved.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial fishermen and department staff will benefit by having conditions for weather delays more clearly defined in regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-280)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.** Amend regulation to allow 120 pots for vessels with two Tanner permits onboard as follows:

(1) No more than 80 tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish tanner crab, **except that 120 pots will be allowed for a vessel with two tanner permits on board.**

**ISSUE:** Escalating fixed costs are causing a continuing decline in the fleet’s efficiency.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Effort in the fishery will continue to decline as net profits continue to shrink. The resource will be underutilized.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource (longer soak times will reduce handling of non legal crab). The fleet (net profits will increase as fixed costs remain the same and there will be less gear in the water allowing better CPUE).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast King and Tanner Task Force  
(HQ-F11-036, previously HQ-08F-146)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 35.125. Lawful gear for Registration Area A.** Amend regulation to allow additional pots in the king and Tanner fisheries for vessels with two permits aboard as follows:

- 1) A) No more than 20 king crab pots when the guideline harvest level is at least 200K but not more than 399,000 pounds, **except two permits may be registered to one vessel to allow 40 pots.**
- 2) When the commercial golden king crab season is open in Registration Area A, and the commercial red king crab or tanner crab season is closed, not more than 100 king crab pots may be operated from a vessel, **except when two permits are registered on vessel, 150 pots may be operated.**
- 3) When the commercial golden king and tanner crab seasons are open in registration Area A at the same time, an aggregate of no more than 80 kind and tanner crab pots may be operated from a vessel registered to fish for both kind and tanner crab **except a vessel with two dual permits registered on board may fish an aggregate of 120 pots.**

**ISSUE:** Escalating fixed costs are causing a continuing decline in the fleet’s efficiency.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Effort in the fishery will continue to decline as net profits continue to shrink. The resource will be underutilized.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** With less gear in the water the king crab seasons may last longer. More of the quota will be sent out live and the total value of the fishery will increase.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource (longer soak times will reduce handling of non legal crab). The fleet (net profits will increase as fixed costs remain the same and there will be less gear in the water allowing better CPUE).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast King and Tanner Task Force  
(HQ-F11-037, previously HQ-08F-148)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Taku Harbor as follows:

5 AAC 32.150 Closed waters in Regulation Area A, add “waters within Taku Harbor north and east of a line from Grave Point to Stockade Point”. These points from the entrance to the harbor so this closure would affect only Taku Harbor but not nearby coves and bays.

**ISSUE:** Inadequate stock of Dungeness crab in Taku Harbor for personal use and subsistence needs. Commercial crabber blanket the harbor with posts at the beginning of the opening period and remove all harvestable crab with the first week or two. P/U and subsistence users are left to pick through the remaining crab in hope of finding one large enough to harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Dungeness crab stocks in Taku Harbor will remain depressed. Personal use and subsistence users will continue to be denied a fair share of the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, as a result of the commercial harvest in Taku Harbor, the crabs are harvested as they recruit into the fishery. This results in small crabs with very little meat in their shells. Eliminating the commercial harvest will allow crabs to grow larger before being harvested by P/U and subsistence users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All personal use and subsistence Dungeness crab harvesters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A few commercial crabbers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Juneau Yacht Club & Territorial Sportsmen Inc. (HQ-F11-076)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Swanson Harbor as follows:

5 AAC 32.150 Closed waters in Regulation Area A, add “waters within Swanson Harbor from the northern tip on the west side of Couverden Island to the southern end of Ansley Island”. These points from the entrance to the main anchorage of the harbor so this closure would affect only one arm of Swanson Harbor, where the public mooring floats are located.

**ISSUE:** Inadequate stock of Dungeness crab in Swanson Harbor for personal use and subsistence needs. Commercial crabbers blanket the harbor with posts at the beginning of the opening period and remove all harvestable crab with the first week or two. Personal use and subsistence users are left to pick through the remaining crab in hope of finding one large enough to harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Dungeness crab stocks in Swanson Harbor will remain depressed. Personal use and subsistence users will continue to be denied a fair share of the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, as a result of the commercial harvest in Swanson Harbor, the crabs are harvested as they recruit into the fishery. This results in small crabs with very little meat in their shells. Eliminating the commercial harvest will allow crabs to grow larger before being harvested by P/U and subsistence users.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All personal use and subsistence Dungeness crab harvesters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A few commercial crabbers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Juneau Yacht Club & Territorial Sportsman Inc. (HQ-F11-079)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT\_\_\_\_\_ABSTAIN\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_TIME\_\_\_\_\_TAPE#\_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A. 5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in Excursion Inlet of District 14 as follows:

**5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.** In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows: (3) in all other waters of Registration Area A, **except the waters of Excursion Inlet described in 5 AAC 32.150(17)**, from 12:00 noon June 15 through 11:59 p.m. August 15 and from 12:00 noon October 1 through 11:59 p.m. November 30.

**5 AAC 32.150. Closed waters in Registration Area A.** In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab: **(17) waters of Excursion Inlet between 58° 24.567'N, 135° 26.202'W and 58° 24.170'N, 135° 25.849'W.**

**ISSUE:** The need for a personal use/subsistence zone for Dungeness crab fishing within District 14, specifically the area located in Excursion Inlet between 58° 24.567'N, 135° 26.202'W and 58° 24.170'N, 135° 25.849'W.

Residents and property owners of Excursion Inlet within District 14 have reported that since 2002, they have experienced a generally degrading personal use and subsistence Dungeness crab fishery. They attribute this primarily to the actions of commercial crabbers who are increasingly dominating the fishery. Excursion Inlet residents and property owners have cited instances of commercial fishermen setting their gear on top of the personal or subsistence pots already fishing, picking pots, cutting buoy lines, and moving gear. The local enforcement officer has limited time and resources to address the many complaints, and incidents often go unreported for lack of effective enforcement options. This is becoming more serious with confrontations and friction, and it threatens the opportunities for subsistence and personal use fishing within the Excursion Inlet community.

This proposal is directed at the impact on subsistence and personal use by the commercial crabbers. The State of Alaska recognizes that subsistence fishing is economically and culturally important for many Alaskan families and communities. The Excursion Inlet community believes their ability to subsistence fish for Dungeness crab has been seriously impacted by the commercial crabbers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued, and possibly increased, degradation of personal use and subsistence Dungeness crab fishery. Possible escalation of confrontations and friction between the Excursion Inlet residents/property owners and the commercial crabbers. Opportunities for subsistence and personal use fishing may continue to be threatened. On behalf of the Excursion Inlet community, the Haines Borough proposes a personal use and subsistence zone for Dungeness crab as a solution to the problem.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The problem is the impact on subsistence and personal use by the commercial crabbers. One of the board's specific allocation criteria when allocating between

fisheries is: “the importance of each fishery for providing residents the opportunity to obtain fish for personal and family consumption.” AS 16.05.251(e)(3). The quality of subsistence and personal use fishing would be improved, and it is presumed that closing the area to commercial fishing would improve the resource by preventing overharvesting on this one area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The residents and property owners of Excursion Inlet who depend on subsistence and personal use fishing. Excursion Inlet is within the Haines Borough’s jurisdiction. The Borough received a petition signed by 36 Excursion Inlet residents and property owners. The Borough Assembly adopted Resolution 10-08-227 on August 24, 2010 in support of submitting this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial crabbers who have been fishing in this area.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Haines Borough (HQ-F11-085)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 164 - 5AAC 32.150. Closed Waters in Registration Area A.** Close commercial Dungeness crab fishing in the Ketchikan vicinity as follows:

In Area A, the following waters are closed to the taking of Dungeness crab: **(17) waters of Helm Bay west of a line from 55° 35' N. lat., 131° 57' W. long., north to Helm Pt. 55°37' N. lat., 131° 53.5' W. long. (18) waters of Traitors Cove east of 131° 42' W. long.**

**ISSUE:** Depletion of Dungeness crabs in District 1, Area A. Dungeness habitat is minimal and limited to small bays in the Ketchikan vicinity. Commercial crabbers fishing in the summer are having a devastating impact on our opportunity to harvest personal use Dungeness. Areas close to Ketchikan that residents have traditionally been able to harvest crab are no longer productive.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There are two bays that have been traditionally used by residents for personal use, which have been affected. Helm Bay has two U.S.F.S. cabins and Traitors Cove has a dock and trails which are used frequently by residents wishing to enjoy the wilderness and harvest some crab, however the crabbing opportunity is very poor now that a summer commercial Dungeness fishery has been prosecuted.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Personal use Dungeness crab will continue to be difficult to harvest around the Ketchikan vicinity. Local residents will not find crab in traditional personal use areas and will have to contend with hundreds of commercial pots that never used to exist in the summer. If some additional areas are not restricted from commercial crabbing residents will not be able to harvest Dungeness crab as in the past.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This would improve the quality and quantity of the crab available for personal use in Helm Bay and Traitors Cove. These areas are close to Ketchikan; they have cabins, docks, mooring buoys, trails and are heavily utilized by Ketchikan residents for personal use.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial Dungeness fishermen would have to fish areas further away from Ketchikan but this should not be a problem as most of these crabbers are coming from Wrangell and Petersburg anyway.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered more area but stuck to the frequently used personal use areas with existing infrastructure supporting recreational use.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ketchikan Guided Sportfish Association (HQ-F11-113)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC XX.XXX. Regulation Title.** Amend regulation regarding buoy markers in the Dungeness crab fishery as follows:

(d) In Area A, all Dungeness crab pots and ring nets operated by a CFEC limited entry or interim permit holder must be [IDENTICALLY] **similarly** buoyed and marked. At least one buoy on each pot or ring net must be legibly marked with the permanent department vessel license plate number of the single vessel operating the gear. The buoy, or multiple buoys attached to a Dungeness crab pot or ring net, may bare only one vessel license number. The vessel license number must be in symbols at least one and one-half inches high and with lines at least one-quarter inch wide that contrast with the background.

**ISSUE:** The word "identical" in describing Dungeness crab buoys. As written and the standard definition of the word identical is a standard that can't be reached even brand new from the manufacturer. In the manufacture of buoys machine tolerances are approx. + or - 3% between buoys along with slight color variations. In addition based on where the pot is set, they may be sun faded to different degrees. Dept of Public Safety has told SEAFSA members that they could issue a ticket if you used a different knot on the buoy, put the tag in a different place on the buoy string or type of rope used is different, if the size of the buoy is different at all. It is unrealistic that a string of up to 300 crab pots can be this identical especially if you have to replace a lost pot or two and use a newer buoy in part of the string.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Warnings and tickets are given even though the crab fishermen attempted to follow the law.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial Dungeness crab fishermen will not have to fully replace the buoys for a whole string of pots in order to replace one missing buoy or worry about enforcement.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Enforcement will be a tad harder as they might have to stop and look and compare buoys.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance (HQ-F11-074)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 32.110. Fishing seasons for Registration Area A.** Revise season dates for commercial Dungeness fishery in Southeast Districts 1 and 2 as follows:

5 AAC 32.110 FISHING SEASONS FOR REGISTRATION AREA A. In Registration Area A, male Dungeness crab may be taken or possessed only as follows:

(1) in Section 13-B, except the waters of the Sitka Sound Special Use Area described in 5 AAC 32.150(10), [AND BEGINNING FEBRUARY 29, 2012, IN DISTRICTS 1 AND 2,] except the waters of Whale Passage described in (2) of this section, from 12:00 noon October 1 through 11:59 pm February 28;

**ISSUE:** At the last Board of Fish meeting Districts 1 & 2 season dates for commercial Dungeness crab fishing were changed to coincide with the summer and fall season of the majority of Southeast Alaska for a three year period at which time it would be reevaluted using current data. Following that District 2 was reconsidered at another meeting and returned to a winter fishery only due to concerns that subsistence needs had not been fully considered during the original board cycle. We would like to remove the sunset date on district one and district 2 with a area (to be determined) around Kassan closed for commercial and sport fishing to protect the interests of the Village of Kassan residents. The request for this area to be opened three years ago pointed out that the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen have lost area due to sea otters, personal use area and the closure of Glacier Bay. Having Districts 1 & 2 open during the summer and fall season will help spread out the fleet.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We will go back to the old status quo of a winter only season for District 1 & 2.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Dungeness crab fishermen.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing District 1 & 2 to sport Dungeness crab fishing. If concern over the stock still exists that commercial fishing in the summer is inappropriate then all Dungeness crab fishing should be closed in these 2 districts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clay Bezenek (HQ-F11-215)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 32.170. Lawful gear for Registration Area D.** Reduce number of Dungeness crab pots allowed on vessels in Yakutat Area as follows:

We would like to reduce the Dungeness crab pot limit from 400 pots per vessel to 60 pots per vessel in the Yakutat area.

**ISSUE:** The Yakutat area hasn't had a commercial crab season for more than 17 years. We feel that a small scale test fishery will allow for biological information to be collected without putting to much pressure on the resource.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will continue to be a lack of accurate data on crab stocks in this area, and the possibility of the fishery to go unutilized.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Crab fishermen, and the ADFG will get valuable data on stocks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yakutat Advisory Committee (HQ-F11-339)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Revise management plan for the southeast pot shrimp fisheries allowing extra fishing time per subdistrict as follows:

The department shall open each subdistrict for 3 to 7 days after a district closes if that subdistrict had less than 5% of the total district catch. This should be inserted into the shrimp management plan.

**ISSUE:** In many areas in Southeast Alaska the shrimp fleet and catch is being concentrated with the current management plan. In the past the shrimp fleet was able to fish many parts of a district when it was open and was able to access different stocks of shrimp within that district. Currently in some of the districts in Southeast the shrimp are caught in a small portion of the district and this closes the whole district to fishing, this does not allow the fleet to fish on grounds that have seen no effort that year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fleet will continue to concentrate on known stocks and will not take advantage of other grounds within each district that don't see any effort and may have fishable populations of shrimp.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Shrimp fishermen will benefit by having more area to fish.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Department managers and enforcement will have more areas to manage and enforce.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I considered increasing the guideline harvest range in each district but this would just encourage catching more shrimp in the same area and would not force the fleet to disperse and explore new ground.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brennon Eagle. (HQ-F11-018)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.** Establish section subdivisions in all districts of shrimp fishery as follows:

The board should direct the department, working with the Shrimp Task Force, to establish section sub-divisions with appropriate GHLS in all districts of the fishery.

**ISSUE:** The short duration of the fishery forces shrimp fishermen to concentrate on areas with the highest catch rates. The result is that the entire GHL for a District can often be taken from only a very small portion of the District. Nonetheless, the entire District gets closed, even though much or most of it has received little if any fishing effort. The net result is that large areas receive scant fishing effort and harvestable shrimp are left in the water. In response to this the board and department have sub-divided some districts into sections and established separate GHLS for the various sections. (Districts 3, 12 and 13 are sub-divided.) This principle of sub-division is a good one, and should be expanded throughout Area A.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fleet will continue to suffer economic losses from foregone harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This is not a product quality issue.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The entire fleet should benefit because the proposed action will result in an increased harvest from areas which are now essentially unfished. While additional amounts are not expected to be huge, they will nonetheless be significant, and could off particular importance to fishermen who traditionally continue “scratch fishing” in moderate to low producing areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The proposed solution should not cause any negative effects.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I thought about adding a specific GHL for each of the obvious sectors that are not now seeing much fishing effort – say, a standard 5,000 lbs. However, that seems arbitrary and does get to issues like sub-dividing some of the large areas with fairly substantial GHLS. Some of these areas may have several “hot spots” that need to be treated separately. This work is much better left to in-depth discussions at the Task Force level.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (HQ-F11-230)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Revise the Commercial Southeast Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan utilizing inseason catch data as follows:

Manage each area within the GHL using the season catch data of effort, daily catch rates, shrimp size and gear saturation to determine closure dates. Not just using the preset quota within the GHL.

**ISSUE:** ADF&G department managers are setting area season catch quotas within the GHL based on preseason models. Once set these quotas are left for 3 years to access impact. This method of management can lead to over fishing stocks in low abundance years or leaving shrimp unharvested in years of high abundance.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Shrimp stocks can be harvested below threshold levels or shrimp can be left unharvested.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, with active inseason management smaller poor market product will not be over-harvested to reach area quotas now set by ADF&G.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** In years of low abundance the shrimp resource will benefit with timely closures. In years of high abundance fishermen will get more fishing time.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Fishermen believe some areas have been overfished due to the 3 year lagtime for adjusting quotas. Other areas close in hours due to high shrimp stocks, leaving shrimp unharvested.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Otto Florschutz (HQ-F11-056)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 31.115. Shrimp pot guideline harvest ranges for Registration Area A.** Establish a spawner index system for the Southeast Alaska Spot Prawn Pot Fishery as follows:

A spawner index system such as used in British Columbia is generally recognized to offer the best available in-season management and optimal resource utilization. Spawner index uses a defined ratio of males to females in the catch to determine if the fishery in a given area should remain open or be closed. The board should direct the department to begin moving toward this kind of system in the Southeast Alaska spot prawn pot fishery, with a goal of full implementation by the 2015 board cycle. Interim steps could include testing of the system in selected fishing areas.

**ISSUE:** Lack of an intensive in-season management system in the spot prawn pot fishery results in substantial economic losses to fishermen and to the regional economy because of foregone harvest. The current system of guideline harvest levels (GHL), season by season target GHLs, limited pre-season surveying, and in-season monitoring of a few “hot” fishing areas, does not provide managers with the best in-season data. The result is that, in strong stock conditions, significant amounts of harvestable prawns are left in the water because managers have to be more cautious than they might otherwise be with better tools. (Note: Most unharvested prawns are not available to harvest the following year because they are final -year females that die before the next season.) Conversely, in bad conditions the existing system can result in overharvest, even with conservative, pre-season target GHLs.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The fleet will continue to suffer significant economic losses from foregone harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Not applicable.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The entire pot shrimp fleet should benefit through increased harvest, without sacrificing principles of resource conservation. The Southeast regional economy will also benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I have thought about efforts to further refine the existing system, such as more pre-season surveys, more biologists on the grounds in- season, etc. However, since we have an excellent and long-proven alternative model, which is generally acknowledge as the “gold standard” in prawn management, it seems only logical that we move toward adoption of that system. Also, while this will require substantial financial / human resources, the BC experience indicates that such cost will be more than repaid by increased fishery economic output.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk (HQ-F11-231)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 31.145. Southeastern Alaska Area Pot Shrimp Fishery Management Plan.** Close the commercial shrimp fishery in the vicinity of Skagway from September 1 – March 1 annually as follows:

We request that commercial harvest of shrimp be restricted north of a line from Sturgill's Landing to Burro Creek, from September 1<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup> each year. This small near shore area would serve as a reproductive refuge, which should produce a better harvest for all users, both commercial and non-commercial. The timing is based on local knowledge of peak reproductive times for our shrimp populations. We also request that information used to assess the health of the local shrimp population be obtained locally (many subsistence users would volunteer to provide data), rather than lumping Skagway in with a larger area. Skagway is the terminus of a very long fjord, conditions here are atypical compared to other waters.

**ISSUE:** Subsistence shrimp harvesters in Skagway are negatively impacted by commercial harvest in the immediate vicinity of the nearshore waters of Skagway/Dyea. Immediately after commercial harvests, subsistence harvest typically drops to zero – single digit numbers of shrimp per pot. The numbers very slowly recover over months, only to be decimated again by the next commercial harvest. The damaging commercial harvest occurs during the peak reproductive period of the locally harvested shrimp (when most shrimp are carrying eggs). The local shrimp populations never have a chance to attain their historic abundance.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The shrimp harvesters of an entire community will continue to be negatively impacted year round by commercial harvesters who have access to many areas outside the nearshore waters of the town. The local populations of shrimp will never have the opportunity to return to their historic abundance (based on harvest history of long-time locals who can compare pre-commercial to post-commercial harvest periods).

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, all harvesters, commercial and non-commercial, will benefit from more abundant local shrimp populations. By providing a reproductive refuge from the large-scale commercial harvest during the peak reproductive period, populations should recover.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All harvesters of shrimp in the Skagway/Dyea area will benefit from more robust, abundant shrimp populations. Subsistence harvesters will be able to avoid periods of zero – single digit harvest numbers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial harvesters would still have access to nearshore waters between March 1 and September 1, and would still be able to harvest south of Sturgills-Burro Creek year round.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Restricting commercial harvest north of Kasidaya Creek year-round: the area north of a line from Sturgills-Burro Creek leaves most of Taiya Inlet available to commercial harvest while still providing a nearshore reproductive refuge during the time of peak shrimp reproduction.

**PROPOSED BY:** Taiya Inlet Watershed Council

(HQ-F11-070)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 31.110. Shrimp pot fishing seasons and periods for Registration Area A.** Revise the opening dates for the shrimp pot fishery in Registration Area A as follows:

5 AAC 31.110, in Registration Area A, shrimp may be taken by pots only from **November** [OCTOBER] 1 through **March 31** [FEBRUARY 28], unless closed earlier by emergency order.

**ISSUE:** Making the season start later would improve the quality and higher shrimp prices.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Poor quality and lower shrimp prices.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, both resource harvested and products produced would provide a better quality.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All parties benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Don G. Munhoven & Donald T. Munhoven Jr. (HQ-F11-219)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 31.124. Lawful shrimp pot gear for Registration Area A.**  
Establish set times for deploying or retrieving shrimp pots in Registration Area A as follows:

(5) Any shrimp pot can be hauled or retrieved once between 6:00 AM. until 6:00 PM each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest range”.

**ISSUE:** The Current Regulation reads: “(5) shrimp pot gear may be deployed or retrieved only from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM each day; the commissioner may close, by emergency order, the fishing season in a district or a portion of a district and immediately reopen the season during which the time period allowed to deploy and retrieve shrimp pot gear may be increased or decreased to achieve the guideline harvest range”. This regulation lacks the flexibility shrimpers need to adjust for and work around the weather.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If nothing is done shrimpers lives will continue to be put at unnecessary risk. Fishers, boats will be torn up or they will continue to waste expensive fuel while watching the weather moderate by 4 pm. Current hauling restrictions force fishers to fish in sometimes severe weather placing crew, vessel and their own lives in unnecessary danger.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. October and November can be and are often stormy months. In inside waters storms can be short lived. An 8-hour a day restriction can often be the window of the worst part of a storm. With current fuel prices, boats and freezers are expensive to operate. Current hauling restrictions force fishers to fish in sometimes severe weather placing crew, vessel and their own lives in unnecessary danger. When choosing not to fish they often watch the wind moderate in the afternoon allowing them to fish but not having time too.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Shrimp fisherpersons and crew.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Leave hours at 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for hauling.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wrangell Advisory Committee (HQ-F11-147)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 31.126. Shrimp pot marking requirements for Registration Area A.** Revise marking requirements for shrimp pots in Registration Area A as follows:

(c) Shrimp pots deployed on a longline, consisting of more than ten.[FIVE] pots, **including 100 fathom or more longline** must have at least one buoy attached to each end of the longline. The buoys must be properly marked as specified in 5 AAC 31.051 [AND THE POTS MUST BE MARKED AS REQUIRED UNDER (A) OF THIS SECTION].

**ISSUE:** Improves safety and saves on pot gear.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Unsafe with two buoy lines. To close together and a lot easier to lose gear at five pots or more.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** N/A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Don G. Munhoven & Donald T. Munhoven Jr. (HQ-F11-218)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A; and 5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.** Prohibit registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp and Dungeness crab fishery at the same time as follows:

**5 AAC 31.128. Operation of other gear in Registration Area A.**

...

(c) A vessel owner, or [OPERATOR] owner's agent, may not [BE REGISTERED] register a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. However, a vessel owner, or [OPERATOR] owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for a shrimp fishery and register for a different shrimp fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

(d) A vessel owner, or owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. However, a vessel owner, or owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery by contacting a local representative of the department, in person, and providing all requested information.

**5 AAC 32.128. Operation of other [POT] gear in Registration Area A.**

(a) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 32.053, a person or vessel that operates commercial king crab pots in waters deeper than 100 fathoms during the 14 days immediately before the opening of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Registration Area A, may participate in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

(b) A vessel owner, or owner's agent, may not register a vessel for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. However, a vessel owner, or owner's agent, may cancel a vessel's registration for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery and register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery if

(1) the person removes from the water the pots that are used and marked for the commercial Dungeness crab fishery or puts them in storage, as specified in 5 AAC 32.052; and

(2) the vessel owner, or owner's agent, contacts a local representative of the department, in person, and requests that the department cancel the vessel's commercial Dungeness crab registration, and the department cancels the vessel's commercial Dungeness crab registration.

**ISSUE:** Current regulations allow for a permit holder or permit holders to register a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. The amended regulatory language above would prohibit a permit holder or permit holders from registering a vessel for the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery and the commercial Dungeness crab fishery at the same time. Also, current regulations may allow for more than one permit holder to register a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time. The amended regulatory language above clarifies that more than one permit holder registering a vessel for the commercial shrimp pot fishery and the commercial beam trawl shrimp fishery at the same time is prohibited.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If fished in shallow, softer bottoms, beam trawls are effective at catching Dungeness crabs. Current regulations do not prohibit simultaneous registration in both fisheries, do not prohibit both types of gear to be onboard, and do not prohibit a permit holder or permit holders from having beam trawl shrimp and Dungeness crabs onboard a vessel at the same time. Also, the current regulations on simultaneous registration in the pot shrimp and beam trawl shrimp fisheries require clarification.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All user groups that enjoy harvesting and catching Dungeness crabs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial Dungeness permit holders who might wish to target Dungeness crabs with a beam trawl.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-277)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 31.111. Shrimp beam trawl fishing seasons and logbook requirements for Registration Area A.** Establish a Beam Trawl Task Force as follows:

The board should establish a Beam Trawl Task Force tasked with:

i) economic revitalization of the Area A shrimp beam trawl fishery, including support for both catcher (for peeling) and catcher processor sectors, and promotion value maximization and full utilization of the resource; and ii) examining all rules currently applicable to the industry for efficacy, and with recommending changes, additions or deletions to such rules to benefit fleet economics, safety and resource conservation. Given the industry's dire economic straits, the board should provide for rule changes and implementation of Task Force recommendations within the 3-year cycle so as not to delay or forestall vitally needed changes.

**ISSUE:** After having been a meaningful contributor to the regional economy for nearly a century, the Southeast Alaska beam trawl shrimp industry is in dire economic condition, even though trawl shrimp stocks are quite healthy. In 2010 only 4 of 27 permits fished and landings were a scant 58,000 lbs – less than 3% of the 15-year average. Many problems contributed to the industry's decline, including very high production from competing coldwater shrimp fisheries in the N. Atlantic. But, the biggest problems were failure to innovate and dependence solely on the lowest value production model. These problems were by no means caused solely by Alaska's management systems. But management systems do set the "playing field" for the industry. If the industry is to get back on its feet again, one part of the equation must be a full assessment of the regulations to ensure that they contribute to a positive operational environment and do not impose unnecessary, unintended impediments to fishermen's economic success.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The beam trawl shrimp fishery is facing economic extinction. Individual fishermen have lost livelihoods and face huge losses on important assets like vessels, permits and gear.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, definitely. The current management system does not support product diversity and value maximization in the industry. Traditionally, the beam trawl shrimp processing sector produced almost entirely cooked and peeled shrimp. This is a vital part of the product mix, but only a part. Other principal coldwater shrimp product forms, which have higher unit value, include whole cooked and whole frozen (sushi-grade) shrimp. These are FAS product forms. The regulatory environment should support production of all the three major product forms to achieve optimum fishery economic success. In the North Atlantic the coldwater shrimp industry achieves ex-vessel values of up to \$1.25 per pound, whereas our traditional model provided a quarter of that or less. Management rules must also support taking full advantage of our unique and valuable sidestripe shrimp resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The entire beam trawl fleet will benefit if the fishery can be revived economically. Permits and physical assets should regain substantially in value. Efforts to restart traditional shoreside processing will benefit through having a stronger fishing sector and assured supplies of shrimp for peeling. Development of at-sea processing of larger grades will substantially improve overall resource value. Communities and support sectors will benefit from renewed landings and business opportunities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** If the Task Force is successful in its charge and efforts the revive the industry bare fruit, more permits will be fished and the current few active fishermen will face more competition for resources, but that should be offset by overall gains in productivity.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I considered simply submitting a letter or petition to the board prior to the January, 2012 meetings which would include a problem statement and a request for establishment of a Task Force or formalized working group. However, I felt that taking the formal step of submitting a regulatory proposal to look at the effectiveness of our entire regulatory approach to this fishery would still have merit. In any case, the important thing is to highlight the problems of this proud old fishery and set it on the path to recovery and economic health.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Fisk

(HQ-F11-232)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT\_\_\_\_\_ABSTAIN\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_TIME\_\_\_\_\_TAPE#\_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
 Establish a variable harvest strategy for sea cucumbers as follows:

**5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan. (h)** The department shall establish a guideline harvest level for each area open to the harvest of sea cucumbers. The guideline harvest level shall be based on population estimates from the department’s biomass assessment, and shall be calculated as a product: Guideline Harvest Level=3 x **HR** [CF x GF x M] x P, where:

**HR = annual harvest rate applied to corresponding estimated biomass as follows:**

<b><u>HR</u></b>	<b><u>Biomass estimate as percentage of original estimated biomass</u></b>
<b><u>0%</u></b>	<b><u>Less than 50%</u></b>
<b><u>3.2%</u></b>	<b><u>50% - 59%</u></b>
<b><u>6.4%</u></b>	<b><u>60% - 79%</u></b>
<b><u>9.6%</u></b>	<b><u>80% and greater</u></b>

- [CF = 0.4 SCALING FACTOR RELATING MAXIMUM SUSTAINABLE FISHING MORTALITY TO UNEXPLOITED POPULATION SIZE;
- GF = 0.5 CORRECTION FACTOR TO ALLOW FOR ERRORS IN ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH THE SURPLUS PRODUCTION MODEL IS BASED;
- M = 0.32 ESTIMATE INSTANTANEOUS MORTALITY RATE FOR SEA CUCUMBERS;]
- P = **estimated** [VIRGIN] population **biomass** [SIZE], taken as the lower bound of the one-sided 90 percent confidence interval.

The guideline harvest level includes a factor of three to account for a two-year closure under (c) of this section.

**ISSUE:** Guideline harvest levels for the sea cucumber fishery are currently calculated using a fixed annual harvest rate of 6.4%. This rate was regarded as precautionary and included in the management plan prior to development of the commercial fishery in the early 1990s. Since that time, about 20 years of data have been collected during surveys and fisheries; these data have been used to determine the actual response of the population to harvest levels. In some areas, populations have declined below optimal production levels, and they have increased in other areas, indicating that a variable harvest rate, based on stock level, may be more appropriate than a fixed harvest rate regardless of stock level. A variable harvest rate strategy protects stocks from substantial decline below productive levels, and takes advantage of surplus production when stocks are at high levels.

Additionally, under the current management plan there is no biological reference point, or threshold, below which commercial harvest would not be permitted. A threshold of 50% of the estimated initial biomass would prohibit harvest on stocks that are below optimal production levels and may allow stocks to rebound to productive levels more quickly than with constant harvest pressure.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Guideline harvest levels will continue to be based on a fixed 6.4% annual harvest rate and fisheries may be prosecuted when stock levels are low. This may result in continued population decline in less productive areas. In addition, in more productive areas, overall yield may be reduced if not fished at a higher harvest rate.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial harvesters, ultimately, because sea cucumber stocks are expected to reach and sustain levels of optimal productivity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some commercial harvesters who target areas that have fallen below the proposed threshold would suffer. Currently, most areas in this category are inhabited by sea otters, and sea cucumber populations are not expected to recover soon.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Several harvest rate scenarios were considered, including maintaining current management plan, and various combinations of threshold levels and harvest rate categories.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-281)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**

Revise sea cucumber management plans to account for predation by sea otters as follows:

The department, on an annual basis, will determine areas that have or are being impacted by sea otters. The department will increase the harvest rate in each of these areas, or allow for experimental fisheries in areas previously closed due to sea otter predation.

**ISSUE:** Sea otters in Southeast Alaska are rapidly impacting sea cucumber populations, particularly on the west coast of Prince of Wales and Sitka. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages sea cucumbers by establishing a Guideline Harvest Level in each area open to the harvest of sea cucumbers. ADF&G does not take into account the impact of sea otters in any area. Several areas have been closed due to sea otter predation.

The Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (SARDFA) wants the department to develop a management plan that takes into account sea otter predation on sea cucumbers. This plan may include a higher harvest rate in areas that sea otters are occupying, or allow for harvests in areas that have previously been closed to see if any sea cucumbers still exist.

Sea otter predation has already reduced the sea cucumber GHM by approximately 300,000 pounds on an annual basis, costing divers millions of dollars.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sea otters are a major concern for commercial divers. If the State's management plan does not account for sea otters then the predation will continue unchecked. Commercial divers would like the opportunity to realize at least some financial benefit of sea cucumbers before that resource is wiped out by sea otters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would allow commercial sea cucumber divers to realize at least some value of the resource before sea otters wipe out the entire sea cucumber population. While increasing the harvest rate will not increase the quality of the resource it will allow for some financial benefit to the fleet.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Commercial divers will benefit from a temporary increase in the harvest of sea cucumbers. It is possible that subsistence and personal use fishermen will benefit if the pace of the expansion of sea otters is slowed by depriving them of a valuable food source.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Other solutions, such as a realistic management plan for sea otters, is beyond the authority of this board or the State. SARDFA is pursuing other options on the Federal level. In the meantime we are pursuing one of the only options that we have.

**PROPOSED BY:** Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association (HQ-F11-063)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Amend allowable fishing days during the week of Thanksgiving for the sea cucumber fishery in the Ketchikan area as follows:

Change fishing days for sea cucumbers to Sunday and Monday on the week of Thanksgiving.

**ISSUE:** change the fishing days for sea cucumbers on the week of Thanksgiving to: **Sunday and Monday** [MONDAY AND TUESDAY]. Only on Thanksgiving week.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** ADF&G will continue to change fishing days Thanksgiving week by EO authority instead of following codified regulation.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, this gives processors enough time before Thanksgiving to fully process all harvested sea cucumbers before the Holiday.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone because the product produced will be out the highest quality possible.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, not even the sea cucumbers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None, it is time to change this.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ketchikan Advisory Committee (HQ-F11-141)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.**  
Amend allowable daily dive time for the sea cucumber fishery in areas north of Sumner Strait as follows:

Starting November 1, in areas north of Sumner Straits, the harvest time frame for Tuesday will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday's time frame will remain as it currently is.

**ISSUE:** Currently we have 11 hours of dive time over a two day period/week. In Northern Southeast Alaska, as the days get shorter, we lose out on 30-60 minutes, or more, of harvest time each day.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We'll continue to lose out on time that could be productive.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No. It only allows divers to access the total amount of time legally available to them under current regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Divers in the northern latitudes of Southeast Alaska would benefit from this change.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that don't want any change, regardless of the reasoning, would not support this.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** This topic has been discussed but no proposals have come forth until now.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-095)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 38.140. Southeastern Alaska Sea Cucumber Management Plan.** Prohibit diving of unlicensed CFEC sea cucumber permit holders 48 hours before, during, and 48 hours after commercial sea cucumber fishery openings in Southeast Alaska as follows:

Insert after the last sentence of 38.140(e): For a period of 48 hours before, during, and for 48 hours after a fishing period no non-licensed CFEC sea cucumber permit holder, aboard a vessel registered to harvest sea cucumbers, may enter the ocean waters of Southeast Alaska.

**ISSUE:** Currently tenders or other persons on board dive vessels are entering the water prior to or outside of openings and “prospecting” for the divers. While “prospecting” some individuals are harvesting cucumbers, leaving the bag on the bottom until the “divers” can retrieve them during the dive opening. Enforcement by Fish and Game personnel of this illegal “stockpiling” of sea cucumbers on the ocean floor is next to impossible.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The people presently engaged in this illegal “stockpiling” will continue due to enforcement being extremely difficult. More people will become involved in prospecting and illegally harvesting cucumbers as the “success stories” of people getting away with this activity become more prevalent.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal will help eliminate some of the illegal harvesting currently occurring and result in enforcement being very straight forward and clear for Fish and Game enforcement personnel.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those that currently do not use non-licensed divers to “prospect”.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that currently endorse prospecting with non-licensed divers. Also non-licensed CFEC sea cucumber permit holders who engage in the illegal practice of stockpiling sea cucumbers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Divers that are engaged in this type of activity have been approached by divers not prospecting. The reply has been that this activity is not illegal and the diver in the water is not stockpiling cucumbers. Providing that stockpiling has occurred is next to impossible by other divers or by Fish and Game personnel. Passing this proposal would eliminate any confusion and provide clear and enforceable guide lines.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association & Mike Reif (HQ-F11-096)  
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**PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Establish an equal share harvest program within the Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan as follows:

SARDFA will create an equal share Geoduck fishery plan, similar to the previously submitted “Equal Share” proposal that incorporates the use of core/noncore fishing areas.

SARDFA will define which areas (Geoduck beds) are “Core” areas and which are “Non-core” areas. While the definitions of these areas will need to be addressed by SARDFA the intent is to have more desirable and less desirable areas as the basis for distinction.

The purpose of the two tier distinction is to force divers to harvest their equal share poundage from both types of areas. For example: if one year the composition of the two types of areas is made up of 60% core areas and 40% non-core areas then the diver would harvest 60% of his poundage from core areas and 40% from non-core areas.

**PRESEASON REGISTRATION** All geoduck diving in Southeast Alaska will be conducted using an Equal Share Program for every diver for the entire season. Prior to SARDFA making decisions about when to start the season and what the weekly target poundage will be, the Department of Fish and Game would require all divers, interested in diving during the upcoming season, to register with them two weeks prior to the start of the season. This registration to dive will be the only time that a diver could register to dive that year.

Once the department has divers registered they will know the maximum number of divers that can participate that season. Knowing the maximum number of participants and knowing the total Southeast GHLL the department will divide the number of participants into the total GHLL to get the equal share poundage figure for that year. For example: if 60 divers sign up and there is a GHLL of 900,000 lbs the equal share figure would be 15,000 lbs. for each diver.

Prior to the season SARDFA (Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association) will determine when to start diving. SARDFA will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week of the season (weekly poundage target).

**WEEKLY REGISTRATION** Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place divers must register on a weekly basis with the Department of Fish and Game in order to be able to dive that week. Such registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSP results are known, by a time deadline the Department of F&G determines appropriate. Divers may only register for sub areas which passed that week’s PSP test.

During the “weekly registration” divers would indicate to the Department of F&G which sub-area (only one area) they were signing up for and how much of their equal share they were planning on harvesting that week. If a sub-area has enough of a GHLL to accommodate the poundage signed up for no alterations are required. If, however, a sub-area’s GHLL can’t accommodate the diver requested poundage the department will pro rate the diver poundage limits on a percentage of the total request basis. For example: if a diver requested to harvest 1000 lbs. of his Equal Share in area “A”, and this poundage represented 10% of the total diver requests in that sub-area, the department would adjust his requested poundage downward to represent 10% of the remaining GHLL in that sub-area.

Additionally, if the weekly diver requested poundage exceeds the “weekly target amount” the department would adjust all diver’s requested amounts downward, on a percentage of total requested poundage basis, similar to the above example. For example: The total weekly target

amount is 50,000 lbs. Diver “A” signs up to harvest 1500 lbs of his equal share. All the people signing up this week request cumulatively 60,000 lbs. Diver “A”’s request is 2.5% of the total requested amount (60,000 lbs.). In the adjustment he would be allowed to harvest 2.5% of the 50,000 lb. target amount. This new amount is 1250 lbs. instead of the 1500 pounds requested.

The department would make equal share information available to everyone in a manner they deem appropriate and as expeditiously as possible.

An in-season harvesting adjustment will need to be made for poundage not harvested due to: slow individual harvesting rates, non-harvesting by individuals that had registered in the pre-season sign up period, failing PSP tests, etc. SARDFEA will specify, prior to the season beginning, how this will be accomplished. This adjustment will occur when a percentage of the total GHL remains or at a specified date. All unharvested poundage will go into this pool to be redistributed to those that sign up for the end of season harvest time frame. During the decision making of the in-season adjustment SARDFEA would also set a target ending date, at which time harvesting for the year would cease and any unharvested quota would stay in the ground until the next rotation.

**IN SEASON REREGISTRATION** This adjustment will be managed similar to the pre-season sign up. Only individuals that signed up pre-seasonally may participate in the “remainder of the season” sign-up period. The regular season list of signed up divers, who want to continue diving, will reregister with the department by a specified date. The remaining GHL will be harvested as per the above in-season protocol.

Divers would be able to harvest, whether in the regular season or the latter part of the season, all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would allow (usually 3 days of diving) or a number that SARDFEA deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines. Daily diving would be limited to daylight hours as specified by F&G on a regularly updated basis.

**ISSUE:** Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby Style fishery. The one or two day a week fishery occurs without regard to quality control, marketing situations, shipping conditions or weather. Divers harvest everything they can while they can and hope for the best price. Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With Derby Diving Alaska is getting a reputation for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can their ability to control the quality of their product is greatly diminished. Once the week’s product is boxed the next obstacle is to try to get the product shipped out of Alaska. Many times product has to sit and wait for the next available plane.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** As our annual GHL increases our problems will continue to increase. The market problems and quality control problems we currently have will continue to get worse unless we change the way we harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** YES! Divers would have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market would be done over a larger timeframe, resulting in better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a “consistent” supply to the markets. Congestion at the airport would be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane. Divers would also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions.

The markets would approve of spreading out shipments and the likelihood of increased ex-vessel pricing improves also.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone interested in giving the market a consistent higher quality supply of product while increasing the ex-vessel prices for geoducks. Those wanting to slow down production while being able to dive around weather and/or improve the quality of product harvested will benefit under this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that like Derby Diving which is a form of harvesting that most fisheries have long since abandoned.

When a fishery is managed in such a way that nearly half of the licensed permit holders don't even participate, or when the major players in the world of geoducks advises us of the negative impact our harvest method is having on the world market, or when our ex-vessel prices aren't much better than processed pricing, it should be taken that it is time to do something to improve our position.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The issue of half the fleet not participating, of diving regardless of weather and market conditions and producing lower quality product than other geoduck regions of North America has been going on for years. It is with the increase of the annual GHL that these conditions are exasperated. The larger GHL is now causing us to be able to negatively impact other markets.

Some divers have been trying to bring about change through the BOF process for the last three board cycles and have been unsuccessful. The topic has been discussed within SARDFa but a proposal has not been put forth to date. Perhaps with the choices individuals are putting forth SARDFa will be able to support at least one version?

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-098)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Under an equal-share harvest program, require preseason registration for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery as follows:

**PRESEASON REGISTRATION** All geoduck diving in Southeast Alaska will be conducted using an Equal Share Program for every diver for the entire season. Prior to SARDFFA making decisions about when to start the season and what the weekly target poundage will be, the Department of Fish and Game would require all divers, interested in diving during the upcoming season, to register with them two weeks prior to the start of the season. This registration to dive will be the only time that a diver could register to dive that year.

Once the department has divers registered they will know the maximum number of divers that can participate that season. Knowing the maximum number of participants and knowing the total Southeast GHL the department will divide the number of participants into the total GHL to get the equal share poundage figure for that year. For example: if 60 divers sign up and there is a GHL of 900,000 lbs the equal share figure would be 15,000 lbs. for each diver.

Prior to the season SARDFFA (Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association) will determine when to start diving. SARDFFA will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week of the season (weekly poundage target).

**WEEKLY REGISTRATION** Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place divers must register on a weekly basis with the Department of Fish and Game in order to be able to dive that week. Such registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSP results are known, by a time deadline the Department of F&G determines appropriate. Divers may only register for sub areas which passed that week's PSP test.

During the "weekly registration" divers would indicate to the Department of F&G which sub-area (only one area) they were signing up for and how much of their equal share they were planning on harvesting that week. If a sub-area has enough of a GHL to accommodate the poundage signed up for no alterations are required. If, however, a sub-area's GHL can't accommodate the diver requested poundage the department will pro rate the diver poundage limits on a percentage of the total request basis. For example: if a diver requested to harvest 1000 lbs. of his Equal Share in area "A", and this poundage represented 10% of the total diver requests in that sub-area, the department would adjust his requested poundage downward to represent 10% of the remaining GHL in that sub-area.

Additionally, if the weekly diver requested poundage exceeds the "weekly target amount" the department would adjust all diver's requested amounts downward, on a percentage of total requested poundage basis, similar to the above example. For example: The total weekly target amount is 50,000 lbs. Diver "A" signs up to harvest 1500 lbs of his equal share. All the people signing up this week request cumulatively 60,000 lbs. Diver "A"'s request is 2.5% of the total requested amount (60,000 lbs.). In the adjustment he would be allowed to harvest 2.5% of the 50,000 lb. target amount. This new amount is 1250 lbs. instead of the 1500 pounds requested.

The department would make equal share information available to everyone in a manner they deem appropriate and as expeditiously as possible.

An in-season harvesting adjustment will need to be made for poundage not harvested due to: slow individual harvesting rates, non-harvesting by individuals that had registered in the pre-season sign up period, failing PSP tests, etc. SARDFa will specify, prior to the season beginning, how this will be accomplished. This adjustment will occur when a percentage of the total GHL remains or at a specified date. All unharvested poundage will go into this pool to be redistributed to those that sign up for the end of season harvest time frame. During the decision making of the in-season adjustment SARDFa would also set a target ending date, at which time harvesting for the year would cease and any unharvested quota would stay in the ground until the next rotation.

**IN SEASON REREGISTRATION** This adjustment will be managed similar to the pre-season sign up. Only individuals that signed up pre-seasonally may participate in the “remainder of the season” sign-up period. The regular season list of signed up divers, who want to continue diving, will reregister with the department by a specified date. The remaining GHL will be harvested as per the above in-season protocol.

Divers would be able to harvest, whether in the regular season or the latter part of the season, all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would allow (usually 3 days of diving) or a number that SARDFa deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines. Daily diving would be limited to daylight hours as specified by F&G on a regularly updated basis.

**ISSUE:** Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby Style fishery. The one or two day a week fishery occurs without regard to quality control, marketing situations, shipping conditions or weather. Divers harvest everything they can while they can and hope for the best price. Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With Derby Diving Alaska is getting a reputation for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can their ability to control the quality of their product is greatly diminished. Once the week’s product is boxed the next obstacle is to try to get the product shipped out of Alaska. Many times product has to sit and wait for the next available plane.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** As our annual GHL increases our problems will continue to increase. The market problems and quality control problems we currently have will continue to get worse unless we change the way we harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? YES!** Divers would have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market would be done over a larger timeframe, resulting in better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a “consistent” supply to the markets. Congestion at the airport would be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane. Divers would also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions.

The markets would approve of spreading out shipments and the likelihood of increased ex-vessel pricing improves also.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone interested in giving the market a consistent higher quality supply of product while increasing the ex-vessel prices for geoducks. Those wanting to slow down production while being able to dive around weather and/or improve the quality of product harvested will benefit under this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that like Derby Diving which is a form of harvesting that most fisheries have long since quit doing.

When a fishery is managed in such a way that nearly half of the licensed permit holders don’t even participate, or when the major players in the world of geoducks advises us of the negative impact our harvest method is having on the world market, or when our ex-vessel prices aren’t much better that processed pricing, it should be taken that it is time to do something to improve our position.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The issue of half the fleet not participating, of diving regardless of weather and market conditions and producing lower quality product than other geoduck regions of North America has been going on for years. It is with the increase of the annual GHL that these conditions are exasperated. The larger GHL is now causing us to be able to negatively impact other markets.

Some divers have been trying to bring about change through the BOF process for the last three board cycles and have been unsuccessful. The topic has been discussed within SARDFa but a proposal has not been put forth to date. Perhaps with the choices individuals are putting forth SARDFa will be able to support at least one version?

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-099)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Open Geoduck fishery year round to provide consistent monthly harvest as follows:

Fish and Game will manage the Geoduck fishery such that there will be consistent monthly poundage available to harvest throughout the entire year.

**ISSUE:** The current season is compressed into approximately four months. The market wants a consistent year around supply of product.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** We'll continue to miss out on maximizing the monetary potential of our product.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Having a year around supply of product that the market can count on will help stabilize our pricing as well as others in the marketplace, i.e. Washington state and British Columbia.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People that want a fishery that maximizes the price structure and provides opportunities for divers to select different time frames for harvesting product would support this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that don't want the season to lengthen because it is in conflict with other things they do, i.e. jobs, personal plans (vacations), commitments. Fish and game will need additional staff in order to manage the fishery beyond the current timelines. The current diver assessment tax (7% off ex-vessel sales) could be a source of funding for this additional expense.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Prolonging the season has been discussed and proposed but successful implementation has been evasive.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-094)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Extend geoduck fishery year round from July 1 to June 30 as follows:

From **July 1** [OCTOBER 1] through **June 30** [SEPTEMBER 30], geoducks may be taken during fishing periods established by emergency order.

**ISSUE:** Currently the dive season may not begin before October 1. As the Southeast Alaska geoduck annual GHL continues to increase an expansion of the season may become desirable. A very profitable time of year to expand the fishery into are the months of August and September.

The only way to dive those months right now is to carry GHLS on the books for the entire year in order to be able to access the months mentioned at the end of the current dive year. Trying to harvest GHLS at the end of a season may result in lost harvest opportunities due to the product failing Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) tests. If this were to happen the unharvested product would be dealt with as per Fish and Game's overage/underage policy.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Divers will not realistically be able to harvest during one of the highest market demand periods of the year.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** YES. This proposal provides for marketing opportunities currently not being utilized.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Every person interested in expanding marketing opportunities and maximizing ex-vessel pricing.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People not interested in having diving occur outside of the current time frame (October –February).

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Divers have expressed an interest in diving in late summer but aren't interested in risking the lost opportunities associated with sub-areas testing "hot" at the end of a season, resulting in unharvested product.

With Fish and Game's new (2010) overage/underage policy all product would be able to be harvested, thereby rendering mute the above concern.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-101)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a trip limit program for the Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery as follows:

All geoduck diving in Southeast Alaska will be conducted using a Trip Limit program for every diver for the entire season.

Prior to the season SARDFa (Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association) will determine when to start diving. SARDFa will also decide the maximum amount of product to be harvested during each week of the season (weekly poundage target).

Once the season begins and a PSP testing schedule is in place divers must register on a weekly basis with the Department of Fish and Game in order to be able to dive that week. Such registration will be done electronically (email) or over the phone, after the weekly PSP results are known, by a time deadline the Department of F&G determines appropriate.

During the “weekly registration” divers would indicate to the Department of F&G which sub-area (only one area) they were signing up for. The department, using the “weekly poundage target” and the total number of registrants for that week, would determine that week’s trip limit. For example: if the weekly poundage target was 50,000 lbs. and there were 50 registrants that week’s trip limit would be 1,000 lbs for each diver.

If a sub-area’s GHl was not large enough to accommodate the number of divers that had signed up for that sub-area the department would recalculate the trip limit for that particular sub-area. Such computation would be accomplished by taking into consideration the number of registrants for the sub-area in question and the poundage available. For example: the sub-area in question has a remaining GHl of 10,000 lbs. and there are 20 divers registered for that area. This would result in a trip limit of 500 lbs per diver that week instead of the 1000 lbs. as in the above example.

The department would make the trip limit information available to everyone in a manner they deem appropriate and as expeditiously as possible.

Divers would be able to dive for their trip limit all of the days of the week that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would allow (most of Southeast Alaska, i.e. Craig and Ketchikan, may harvest Geoduck for 5 days from the date the sample is taken. This translates to a potential of three days of diving due to the time required to harvest the sample and get it to the state lab for testing) or a number that SARDFa deems appropriate, not to exceed DEC guidelines. Daily diving timelines would be daylight hours as specified by F&G on a regularly updated basis.

**ISSUE:** Currently geoduck diving is conducted in a Derby Style fishery. The one or two day a week fishery occurs without regard to quality control, marketing situations, shipping conditions or weather. Divers harvest everything they can while they can and hope for the best price.

Alaska provides less than 7% of the world market yet when we place two or three times the daily demand on the market in a single day we degrade the market for ourselves as well as others in the marketplace.

With Derby Diving Alaska is getting a reputation for poor quality product. When divers are harvesting as much and as fast as they can their ability to control the quality of their product is greatly diminished. Once the week's product is boxed the next obstacle is to try to get the product shipped out of Alaska. Many times product has to sit and wait for the next available plane.

Geoducks are sold on the live market and anything that can be done to expedite their arrival at the market in the best condition possible should be of the utmost importance. Currently this is not being done.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** As our annual GHL increases our problems will continue to increase. The market problems and quality control problems we currently have will continue to get worse unless we change the way we harvest.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? YES!** Divers would have more time to harvest and care for their product. Spreading out the dispersal of product to the market would be done over a larger timeframe, resulting in better acceptance of the product and meeting the need to provide a "consistent" supply to the markets. Congestion at the airport would be greatly reduced, resulting in product not being held over until the next plane. Divers would also have more flexibility to work around poor weather conditions.

The markets would approve of spreading out shipments and the likelihood of increased ex-vessel pricing improves also.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone interested in giving the market a consistent higher quality supply of product while increasing the ex-vessel prices for geoducks. Those wanting to slow down production while being able to dive around weather and/or improve the quality of product harvested will benefit under this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that like Derby Diving which is a form of harvesting that most fisheries have long since abandoned.

When a fishery is managed in such a way that nearly half of the licensed permit holders don't even participate, or when the major players in the world of geoducks advise us of the negative impact our harvest method is having on the world market, or when our ex-vessel prices aren't much better than processed pricing, it should be taken that it is time to do something to improve our position

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The issue of half the fleet not participating, of diving regardless of weather and market conditions and producing lower quality product than other geoduck regions of North America has been going on for years. It is with the increase of the annual GHL that these conditions are exasperated. The larger GHL is now causing us to be able to negatively impact other markets.

Some divers have been trying to bring about change through the BOF process for the last three board cycles and have been unsuccessful. The topic has been discussed within SARDFa but a

proposal has not been put forth to date. Perhaps with the choices individuals are putting forth SARDFA will be able to support at least one version?

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association

(HQ-F11-102)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Amend number of harvest days and times for the Southeast Alaska geoduck fishery to allow for preseason control of harvest for the fishery as follows:

Prior to the season SARDFa would determine how many pounds of product could be harvested each week of the season, based on GHl's available that year, market conditions and diver input. The travel day would be eliminated making one more day available for harvesting purposes. On a weekly basis divers would sign up with Fish and Game indicating which single day, of the days available that week, they wanted to harvest.

**ISSUE:** Under current regulations the Department of Environmental Conservation's testing for psp in Geoduck determines how many days of harvest time we have. In all of SE Alaska, except Sitka, divers are allowed to harvest for five (5) days from the time the sample is taken.

If we can spread the current weekly rate or some new version of the amount we could harvest out over more days of the week we would lessen the impact on the market, airlines, and divers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If we continue with the present method of harvest we'll continue to see Alaskan product receiving the lowest price within the market. Product will continue to get "bumped" at the airport. Diver's congestion issues will only get worse.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** By spreading out the effort over more days of the week divers would become more efficient. Safety issues would not be as numerous. The market and airlines would respond favorably to our efforts to spread out our rate of harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Divers interested in improving on safety concerns while getting a better price for their product would favor this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that are satisfied with the old way of doing things that they cannot agree on any change to the fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** As time moves on people continue to grumble about market conditions yet fail to propose any real changes. This proposal addresses the concerns of many that to date haven't been able to put a proposal forward.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-097)  
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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a weekly rate of harvest schedule for the Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game will manage the rate of geoduck harvest by implementing a weekly rate of harvest schedule.

SARDFA, in consultation with processors and direct marketers, shall decide the amount of quota they wish to see harvested on a weekly basis throughout the season.

**ISSUE:** The current Derby Style Geoduck fishery we have is ruinous to the live market. When our industry harvests more than the market can handle the prices drop and these same prices are very slow to recover.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** With no current way of limiting the amount of product that is harvested during our one and two day openers we'll continue to see our efforts rewarded with low prices. Not only do we suffer the low prices for our efforts but other industries (in British Columbia and Washington State) suffer as well. The hole that our current harvest method places us will only deepen the longer we put off changing it.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** By having a weekly harvest allotment the market will respond by giving a consistently higher price for the product harvested.

The regular problems we have with trying to ship large amounts of Geoduck out on a given day will be greatly reduced if not eliminated altogether. Dead loss will diminish and overall quality will go up.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone interested in receiving more money for their product.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that want to keep this fishery in a state of confusion such that it will keep other potential participants from wanting to participate.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Over the years there have been attempts made to slow down the rate of harvest such as: voluntary harvest rates, gentlemen's agreements, buyer's suggestions, proposed trip limits but none of these worked out.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-104)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Revise harvest rotation areas for the geoduck fishery in Ketchikan and Craig to provide consistent annual harvest in the fishery as follows:

Fish and Game will adjust the rotation of areas harvested to provide a consistent GHL available in the two major areas, Ketchikan and Craig, in Southeast Alaska. Any regrouping of areas will not result in not harvesting any available product. The goal is to have a consistent amount of product available, in both of the areas mentioned, from one year to the next.

**ISSUE:** The Geoduck Guideline Harvest Levels (GHL) fluctuates dramatically from one year to the next. One year the total GHL may be 400,000 lbs. plus and the following year over 800,000 lbs. Having a known consistent supply of product would assist our efforts to get higher prices for our Geoduck.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Product receipts will continue to be lower than they should be.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Having a known consistent amount of product available would help stabilize pricing and marketability.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All divers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that don't want to support changes that may draw more of the permit holders into being a part of the fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Again, there has been talk of doing something to stabilize the GHLs but nothing has ever been written up.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-093)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. #\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT\_\_\_\_\_ABSTAIN\_\_\_\_\_

DATE\_\_\_\_\_TIME\_\_\_\_\_TAPE#\_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Limit length of air and water hoses to 300 ft. in Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery as follows:

**PRESEASON REGISTRATION:** All air and water hoses used, by individual divers, in the harvesting of geoducks shall be limited to 300 feet. Note companion “vessel distance” proposal.

**ISSUE:** Currently some divers use lengths of hoses that are double, or more, the proposed standard length of 300 feet. Divers with longer hoses can anchor far enough away from other boats yet dive in that boat’s “zone” without the affected boat being able to reciprocate. The diver with the long hose can come over and “dust out” a neighboring boat without worrying about the same thing happening to him. This creates a safety concern that should be addressed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some divers will continue to use much longer lengths of hoses than the proposed length of 300 feet each thereby increasing safety related issues. Longer hoses coupled with close anchoring is a recipe for diving disasters. We need a maximum standard hose length.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal will provide for a safer and more orderly fishery. A diver’s ability to harvest more efficiently and safely will improve his opportunities to harvest more responsibly.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All active divers and tenders. Increasing safety and productivity benefits everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that want to hinder fellow diver’s ability to harvest safely and efficiently.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Divers have spoken with each other concerning the problem without anything being done about it. Hence the need for a proposal that is long overdue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-100)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 38.142. Southeastern Alaska Geoduck Fishery Management Plan.** Establish a minimum distance of 200 yards between vessels in the Southeast Alaska Geoduck Fishery as follows:

During dive openings all vessels shall maintain 200yds. distance between dive vessels. Such distances shall be gauged from the first vessel anchored. Note companion “hose length” proposal.

**ISSUE:** During openings vessels are anchoring so close to other vessels as to create serious safety hazards. During openings anchors are being deployed while divers are in the water with tremendous safety concerns. Vessels are moving around within the arc of an anchored boat’s diver’s hose length. Divers get their hoses tangled with other diver’s hoses or fouled around another boat’s anchor gear. Divers have been drug by moving boats due to weather, current or the desire of one boat to weigh anchor.

It is simply a matter of time before this industry experiences a diver disaster under these current conditions.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The above problems will continue to get worse as divers are forced to dive under the conditions mentioned.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Divers will be able to dive safer without the congestion problems currently experienced. This will result in a more efficient and safer fishery.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All divers currently harvesting will appreciate the ability to keep a minimum distance between themselves and other boats. Productivity will increase along with a wider margin of safety.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those that desire to “jump” or “cork” vessels that have already been anchored within a Geoduck bed with little or no regard for fellow divers.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** This issue has been discussed for years on the docks, on the radio, and across bows. There are always certain individuals that will not adhere to any form of a “distance standard”. Hence the need for this regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sitka Geoduck Marketing Association (HQ-F11-103)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 38.054. Unlawful use of dive fishing gear.** Prohibits divers from using gear in commercial openings following unauthorized use of gear and allow divers to dive on aquatic farm sites as follows:

(b) The prohibition described in (a) of this section does not

...  
(2) **repealed.** [PROHIBIT A DIVER FROM LEGALLY PARTICIPATING IN ANY COMMERCIAL MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH FISHERY]

**(3) prohibit a diver from diving on a ADF&G permitted aquatic farm site for the purpose of operating the aquatic farm.**

**(c) Any person or vessel who operates dive gear during any timeframe described in (a) of this section may not participate in any commercial, sport, personal use or subsistence dive fishery for 28-days following the use of dive gear.**

**ISSUE:** Currently, under 5 AAC 38.054, a person or vessel that is licensed or registered to commercial fish for any species of miscellaneous shellfish may not operate dive fishing gear 14 days before or after a fishery they took part in unless they are diving in another commercial miscellaneous shellfish fishery or are authorized to dive by the department for a nonharvesting purpose.

In a recent court case, a diver claimed that miscellaneous shellfish were harvested during a legal fishing period that was authorized under 5 AAC 38.054(b)(2), despite a citation for illegal use of dive gear according to 5 AAC 38.054(a). To prevent further confusion, section (b)(2) should be repealed. Divers found to use gear illegally, in contravention of 5 AAC 38.054, would be prohibited from participation in any miscellaneous dive gear fisheries for 28 days following unauthorized use of dive gear.

Current regulation prevents a dive fisherman who is involved in both the commercial shellfish fisheries and the aquatic farm site industry from diving on an approved aquatic farm site without a permit from the department. The department is concerned that as the aquatic farm site industry grows, this process will soon become very burdensome. This proposal would allow a commercial diver who is participating in a miscellaneous shellfish fishery to be able to dive on approved aquatic farm sites without a special permit issued by the department. Such diving would be confined to the specific boundaries of the aquatic farm site.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Divers using dive gear in violation of 5 AAC 38.054 will continue to be difficult to prosecute and will compromise the department's ability to document times and locations of harvests.

Dive fishermen will continue to be required to contact the department and obtain written permission to conduct any aquatic farm site related work that requires diving.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Divers who follow regulations intended to prevent prospecting and stockpiling, and who legally conduct harvest operations will benefit from the use of a sustainably-managed resource.

Dive fishermen and the department will benefit in reduced paperwork needed to conduct day-to-day aquaculture farm site operations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Divers not complying with current regulations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-258)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 38.146. Registration requirements for red sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and geoducks in Registration Area A.** Amend registration requirements for red sea urchins, sea cucumbers and geoducks in Registration Area A as follows:

(c) The department may require holders of CFEC permits for red sea urchins or sea cucumbers to register with the department before harvesting those resources. Before harvesting geoducks, a holder of a CFEC permit to harvest geoducks must register with the department. The department may require registration that allows for geoduck fishing in only one registration management area or in one defined harvest area with a specified guideline harvest level. If a CFEC permit holder is allowed by the department to fish for geoducks in a different registration management area, the permit holder shall contact the department at least **two business days prior to the weekly opening**, [24 HOURS] before fishing for geoducks in a different registration management area. **For the purposes of this subsection, business hours are considered 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.**

**ISSUE:** In the geoduck clam fishery there are two separate registration areas, the Southern Management Area, which includes districts 1–8, and the Northern Management Area, which includes districts 9–16. These areas are further subdivided into smaller geoduck fishery rotational areas, each with a separate guideline harvest level (GHL). For each geoduck fishery rotational area, the department establishes opening times for weekly fishing periods based on estimated effort levels and remaining GHLs. In the Northern Management Area, GHLs are relatively small and any changes in effort can result in substantial changes in fishing time allowed in order to remain within established GHLs or to allow maximum harvesting opportunity. Twenty-four hours is not sufficient time for the department to make changes in opening time periods and provide adequate advance notice to fishermen. Requiring fishermen to contact the department two full business days prior to the weekly opening before changing management areas would allow the department to provide sufficient advance notice of opening times to fishermen.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If effort levels increase or decrease significantly, the department could have to announce modifications of a geoduck opening immediately prior to an opening, which would lead to confusion, denied opportunity, and possible overharvest of the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Permit holders and the resource will benefit by more precise management of GHLs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those fishermen who make decisions about which area they want to fish closer to the time of the fishery.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-250)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 02.135. Subsistence abalone fishery, and 5 AAC 77.670. Personal use abalone fishery.** Reduce the bag and possession limits for abalone from 50 to 10 in the subsistence and personal use fisheries as follows:

**5 AAC 02.135. Subsistence abalone fishery.** In the subsistence taking of abalone

(1) the **bag and** possession limit is **10** [50] abalone per person;

**5 AAC 77.670. Personal use abalone fishery.** In the personal use taking of abalone

...

(2) the daily bag and possession limit is **10** [50] abalone **per person** [, EXCEPT IN SECTION 13-B NORTH OF THE LATITUDE OF DOROTHY NARROWS THE DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS 20 ABALONE].

**ISSUE:** Abalone were commercially harvested in Southeast Alaska until 1996; the fishery has been closed since. The sport fishery currently has a bag and possession limit of five abalone. Personal use and subsistence limits have been set for many years at 50 abalone per day, except for a small area near the community of Sitka where the limit is currently 20 abalone. This proposal seeks to reduce the regionwide limit for abalone in the subsistence fishery from 50 to 10 abalone per person and in the personal use fishery from 50 to 10. The proposal also seeks to repeal the personal use abalone regulations in Section 13-B north of Dorothy Narrows because they would no longer be needed.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) managers have noticed a steady decline in abalone populations throughout Southeast Alaska. This is attributed in many areas to sea otter predation and predation by other furbearers, such as river otters, that utilize abalone as prey. Very little research has been done to estimate abalone populations, but observations made by ADF&G divers during stock assessment surveys for other species that are commercially harvested clearly indicate a steady decline in abalone populations. These observations have been made over an extensive area of Southeastern Alaska.

Subsistence use surveys conducted in 1987 and again in 1997/1998 also show significant decreases in average household use of abalone in many areas of Southeast Alaska.

The department is concerned that continued harvest of abalone at the present rates under personal use and subsistence regulations will be detrimental to the few remaining abalone concentrations in Southeast Alaska.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The current harvest rates on the few remaining populations of abalone in Southeast Alaska will not allow for a rebounding of population sizes.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The department is confident that current harvest rates are too high on the present stocks of abalone. Increasing populations of sea otters, along with a host of other factors, may limit rebuilding of these declining stocks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users of the abalone resource would benefit from robust abalone populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who currently harvest more than 10 abalone in a single trip would suffer in the short term due to the reduced bag limit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Request the closing of the abalone personal use and sport fisheries.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-261)  
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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 02.135. Subsistence abalone fishery; 5 AAC 47.020. General provisions for seasons and bag. Possession, annual, and size limits for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area; 5 AAC 77.670. Personal use abalone fishery.** Restrict the subsistence, personal use and sport abalone fisheries as follows:

Change existing nonresident abalone daily bag and possession limit from 5 daily, 5 in possession to: **3 daily, 3 in possession and establish a 6 abalone annual limit.**

Change existing personal use bag limits from 50 abalone (Southeast) and 20 abalone (in Sitka area 13-B) to: **5 daily, 5 in possession and establish a 25 abalone annual limit in all of Southeast.**

Change existing subsistence bag and possession limits from 50 abalone daily to: **10 abalone daily, 10 in possession and establish a 30 abalone annual limit.**

Change minimum size from 3.5 to **3.75 inches.**

Educate user groups about conservation of existing abalone stocks. For example, to decrease the mortality rate for abalone that are discarded because they are below the minimum size limit or high graded, ADF&G could include information in the regulation book about proper harvest technique. Discarded or small abalone often cannot survive the damage caused by prying from rocks, or releasing individuals in unsuitable habitat.

Below is an example of text taken from California Fish and Game, similar information could be incorporated in to the ADF&G regbook:

There have been reports of numerous empty shells of undersized abalone at popular fishing sites. Although there are many possible causes of death for undersized abalone, a likely cause is carelessness in picking and returning undersized abalone.

Ab irons are designed to reduce the chances of injuring abalone, but the irons can still cause fatal wounds if used improperly. Foot cuts deeper than inch reduce survivability dramatically since abalone have no blood clotting capabilities. Cuts around the head are often fatal. When sliding an iron under an abalone, keep the iron as close to the rock as possible to avoid stabbing the foot. In prying abalone off rocks it is important that the ab iron handle be lifted away from the rock so that the tip of the bar does not dig into the bottom of the foot.

Even uninjured abalone could easily be killed by predators if they are not carefully returned to suitable habitat. Abalone put on sandy areas or seaweed covered rock surfaces will not be able to clamp down sufficiently to protect themselves from predators. Fishing regulations require an undersized abalone be returned to the same surface of the rock from which it was detached. Experienced abalone pickers can distinguish undersized abalone and do not remove them from rocks. Avoiding removal of undersized abalone helps protect abalone populations since any time an abalone is removed from a rock, there is a chance that it could be fatally injured or unable to reattach to a safe location.

**ISSUE:** Regional and localized depletion of *Haliotis kamtschatkana* (Pinto Abalone) populations around the outer coast of Baranof Island and throughout Southeast Alaska. Despite the closure of the commercial dive fishery for abalone in 1996, both anecdotal evidence and historical data indicate a continued depletion of stocks of *H. kamtschatkana*. The successful reintroduction of sea otters by ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service between the years 1965 and 1969 has allowed local sea otter populations to increase dramatically, thus increasing predation on abalone populations. This along with high abalone take limits for Nonresident, Personal use and Subsistence user groups and a high likelihood of poaching create a poor outlook for Southeast abalone stock futures. Currently Pinto Abalone are classified as Endangered on the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If the current nonresident, personal use and subsistence abalone catch limits remain, the already depleted abalone stocks will continue to decline due to a combination of predation by sea otters and humans. The continued decline in abalone numbers will result in decreased fecundity, and eventually, the collapse of the Southeast population of abalone, one of the few remaining abalone populations in the world.

It would be possible that traditional use groups along with subsistence use groups would seek mitigation due to loss of a traditional and or subsistence food sources based on management decisions including sea otter introduction, past commercial abalone fisheries management and past and current abalone harvest limits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, by actively addressing abalone stock issues now, while abalone are still present, abalone stocks may be allowed to grow in both population and individual size and thus higher fecundity. The desired result will be greater abalone biomass; this will benefit all abalone user groups.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence, personal use and nonresident abalone harvesters and consumers for years to come. Abalone stocks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals that harvest and or consume more than the daily and annual limits described in this proposal. These user groups would hopefully only suffer a short-term reduction in abalone access while the abalone stocks return to a level that is capable of sustaining a higher yield.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Initiating a moratorium on abalone harvest for a period of time between 1 and 10 years to allow stocks to recover along with abalone stock enhancement efforts and stock assessment efforts to monitor effectiveness. I rejected these potential solutions for a variety of reasons one being that a moratorium on harvest without dedicated enforcement would likely lead to an increase in illegal harvest or poaching that would be very difficult to track or monitor without costly enforcement (as seen in California and B.C.) Stock enhancement and monitoring efforts would likely be costly to the ADF&G for a fishery that realizes little monetary return for the local, State and or department economy.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ryan Kauffman

(HQ-F11-084)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 77.668. Personal Use Clam Fishery.** Clarify application of the personal use regulation and close the personal use razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.

Amend the regulation as follows:

**5 AAC 77.668. Personal use clam fishery.** In the personal use taking of clams

(1) there is no closed season; except that

(2) there are no daily bag and possession limits for clams, except that for

(A) geoducks the daily bag and possession limit is six geoducks per person

per day;

(B) [RAZOR CLAMS ON WESTERN KRUFZOF ISLAND BEACHES BETWEEN CAPE EDGECOMBE AND CAPE GEORGIANA, THE BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT IS 50 CLAMS; ALL DAMAGED RAZOR CLAMS ARE PART OF THE BAG LIMIT];

(C) [THE SITKA SOUND SPECIAL USE AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 77.674(3)(A), THE DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT FOR RAZOR CLAMS IS 10 CLAMS; ANY DAMAGED CLAMS TAKEN MUST BE RETAINED AND BECOME PART OF THE DAILY LIMIT] the Sitka Sound Special Use Area described in 5 AAC 77.674(3) is closed to the harvest of razor clams.;

(3) in addition to the gear specified in 5 AAC 77.010(k)(3), geoducks may be taken with a hydraulic clam digger.

**ISSUE:** The department manages the razor clam population on western Kruzof Island beaches between Cape Edgecombe and Cape Georgiana under subsistence regulations, so the personal use regulations are redundant.

Prior to 1994, Kamenoi Beach, located within the Sitka Sound Special Use Area on Kruzof Island, supported the primary sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries for razor clams in the Sitka area. From 1977 through 1986, trends in annual harvests of razor clams in the Sitka area, which averaged about 8,700 clams, were stable. After 1986, annual harvests declined until 1993, when 1,000 clams were taken. Numerous reports from the public indicated a substantial decrease in the number of razor clams on Kamenoi Beach. Potential causes of the decline include changes in tidal currents, changes in beach composition and/or topography, increased predation by sea otters, overexploitation, and disease.

The sport fishery for razor clams in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area has been closed by regulation since 1997 (5 AAC 47.021(g)). The subsistence and personal use fisheries have been closed by EO since 1997. Annual surveys were conducted by the department from 1995–2002, with 2002 having the lowest index count during that period. Though there have not been any surveys conducted since 2002 due to budgetary constraints, there is no expectation that there has been appreciable recovery in the stock. The closure of razor clams in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area should be in regulation until it can be determined that the stock has sufficiently recovered to allow harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will have to annually write an EO closing the personal use razor clam fishery in Sitka Sound.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource, the public, enforcement officers, and department staff will benefit by reducing confusion regarding harvesting opportunities for clams of all types in the Sitka Sound area. The department will no longer need to manage personal use clam harvests by EO.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F11-249)

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FINAL ACTION: Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 02.130. Subsistence Clam Fishery.** Close the subsistence razor clam fishery in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area.

Amend the regulation as follows:

5 AAC 02.130. Subsistence clam fishery

....

**(b) The Sitka Sound Special Use Area described in 5 AAC 77.674(3) is closed to the harvest of razor clams.**

**ISSUE:** 5 AAC 02.108(a)(4) establishes a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for clams, except geoducks, in District 13. In this district, the department manages all clams, except geoducks, under subsistence regulations and manages the geoduck stock under personal use regulations. There is no regulatory limit for subsistence-harvested razor clams.

Prior to 1994, Kamenoi Beach, located within the Sitka Sound Special Use Area on Kruzof Island, supported the primary sport, personal use, and subsistence fisheries for razor clams in the Sitka area. From 1977 through 1986, trends in annual harvests of razor clams in the Sitka area, which averaged about 8,700 clams, were stable. After 1986, annual harvests declined until 1993, when 1,000 clams were taken. Numerous reports from the public indicated a substantial decrease in the number of razor clams on Kamenoi Beach. Potential causes of the decline include changes in tidal currents, changes in beach composition and/or topography, increased predation by sea otters, overexploitation, and disease.

The sport fishery for razor clams in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area has been closed by regulation since 1997 (5 AAC 47.021(g)). The subsistence and personal use fisheries have been closed by EO since 1997. Annual surveys were conducted by the department from 1995–2002, with 2002 having the lowest index count during that period. Though there have not been any surveys conducted since 2002 due to budgetary constraints, there is no expectation that there has been appreciable recovery in the stock. Closure of razor clams in the Sitka Sound Special Use Area should be in regulation until it can be determined that the stock has sufficiently recovered to allow harvest.

The department manages the razor clam population on western Kruzof Island beaches between Cape Edgecombe and Cape Georgiana under subsistence regulations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The department will have to annually write an EO closing the subsistence razor clam fishery in Sitka Sound.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The resource, the public, enforcement officers, and department staff will benefit by reducing confusion regarding harvesting opportunities for clams of all types in the Sitka Sound area. The department will no longer need to close subsistence clam harvests by EO.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F11-248)

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**FINAL ACTION:** Carries      Fails      Tabled      No Action      See Prop. # \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT \_\_\_\_\_ ABSTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ TAPE# \_\_\_\_\_